



BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLES WITH PRESIDENT SAMARASEKERA

President Samarasekera invites students to join her for breakfast and an open discussion on topics of interest to you.

When: Friday, March 16, 2007, 7:30 am to 8:30 am
Where: Saskatchewan Room, Faculty Club, 11435 Saskatchewan Drive

Register to attend at www.president.ualberta.ca/rsup
Enter event code: 1011
The deadline to register is Monday, March 12, 2007.

For further information, please contact:
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*note: no actual beverages provided

THE GATEWAY Finding the droids you're looking for since 1910

More women needed, stat

Proportional representation among the sexes needed in Parliament as well



ELIZABETH
MCMILLAN

If there's a female candidate in an election, I'll vote for her over male counterparts. I'll do this regardless of prior experience, proven ability or even ideology. I'll do this because there aren't enough women in politics, and because this isn't going to change unless someone takes a chance and people support her potential.

Do women deserve a position just because they're women? Yes. Politics is something that people learn by doing. Given the chance, women have equal ability to every man running.

Fourteen years after Kim Campbell became a short-lived female prime minister, the Canadian political landscape still is the old boys' club it's always been. Since 1993, there's only been a two per cent increase in the number of female Members of Parliament. Today, women hold 64 out of a possible 308 seats. Odd, isn't it, that 51 per cent of the population account for only 20 per cent of elected representatives? More like unacceptable. By continuing to produce male governments, we never succeed in changing the status quo. We need representatives who actually represent the population.

Around the world, the proportion

of women in governments was 16 per cent in 2005. Here in Canada, we're nowhere close to the stated parliamentary goal of 30 per cent women MPs. Zero to 30—much less 50—doesn't happen overnight, but at this rate, it's going to take forever.

Therefore something drastic needs to be done. In every level of Canadian politics, white males are a dime a dozen. Even if they do their job well, they're still doing the same thing that's always been done. If male candidates are in fact concerned about equity, why aren't they campaigning for someone else?

I would rather see women elected now than wait for a time when all female candidates are deemed ready for office. I would rather give a woman experience than agree with what she does. Giving women the opportunity to hold powerful positions opens the door for other women to do the same.

I didn't used to think this way. But nothing will change unless female politicians stay vocal and become more expected, less exceptional. I'd like to believe that gender is no longer an issue, but even in student politics, that's far from the case. Having female presidents of the Students' Union and University doesn't exempt us from trends that go beyond campus.

Realistically, it's not surprising that women aren't in a rush to put their names on ballots. There are few female role models in politics right now to begin with, and the women who do enter into the political arena are either vilified or objectified.

Strong, vocal women are bitchy, not respected. Women aren't taken seriously, instead criticized for being too serious; not feminine enough; poorly dressed; lesbian.

The opposite is no more promising. Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Rona Ambrose gets more attention for her hair than her policies. When Belinda Stronach crossed the floor to join the Liberal Party, she was called a whore, a prostitute and a dipstick, among other things.

Ever since, Stronach's image and sexual relationships have garnered more headlines than the politics of any woman in Ottawa. Either way, women are dismissed because their female bodies don't fit into the typical political suits. Student politics is one arena that should be open to new faces. No one SU member is going to change the world. Even the most dedicated individual can only achieve limited success during their year in office, and students will be hard-pressed to find significant ideological differences between platforms in any given year. Except maybe, the serious lack of female candidates. There's only one woman running. For six positions.

That's right: next year will be an all-male executive, with the possible exception of the president. The best we can hope for is people who care about their job and represent students well—but maybe it's time we realized that gender diversity isn't the end of the world; in fact, may be the much-needed end to politics as we know it.

The days of political goonery are no more



PAUL
KNOECHEL

The secret ballot, a cornerstone practice in this great democratic experiment of ours, has gone and broken my heart. For the longest time, I had no idea where my path would take me in terms of a career. Despite years in university and a childhood full of, "So, what do you want to do when you grow up?" I was at a loss; that is, until I was struck by revelation. And by revelation, I mean an elbow.

It was right to the side of the face, out of nowhere, during an Alexisonfire concert when I was trying to enjoy the group's soothing punk-rock stylings. To make a long story short, I discovered that I myself had a knack for throwing elbows in large, tightly packed crowds.

So what does this have to do with my career aspirations? Throwing elbows isn't usually the most sought after skill in the world, after all. Well, I have much more to offer employers: I'm adequately competent in almost all tasks, large enough to be intimidating to small children, boring enough to be inconspicuous—and, after countless hours of playing *Grand Theft Auto*, am completely lacking in any form of morals. Enter in my interest of politics and my contempt for most of the populace, and I'm set to be the perfect right-hand man of the corrupt politician.

Yes, political goonery seemed like the ideal line of work for me. Most of the time you run assistant-like chores: get coffee, copy this, call person X and

so forth. But every so often, it's broken up by the likes of, go blackmail this person, bribe that union, and whatnot. So imagine my disappointment when I discovered that the golden age of voter intimidation ended in 1874, when the Government of Canada officially adopted the secret ballot a mere seven years after Confederation.

Almost any other point in history would have served me beautifully for the lifestyle of a political goon. Of the thousands of years humans existed without democracy, all I would have had to do is make sure that the peasants were good and afraid of A) being invaded, and B) the men at the top. In the first Western democracy in Athens, for example, there were a lot less people that could vote—and therefore less people to intimidate and coerce.

Even in the age of modern democracy, balloting used to be a public event, with crowds of voters shouting out support for one candidate or another. These crowds were rife with goons of one affiliation or another, intimidating as many people as they could into vote for their side. Imagine how well my elbow-throwing skills would have served me then. Now what am I supposed to do with it? A useful skill no doubt—but hardly a career.

I suppose that's the ever-changing face of democracy. Judging by the replies I've been getting back from all levels of government, there are no plans to bring back oral balloting. But that doesn't mean I'm giving up on my political aspirations. There's still plenty of money to be "collected," bribes to be placed and ballot boxes to be stuffed. I'm glad that there's still plenty of electoral and political corruption out there—I just wish it was still out in the open enough that I'd get to toss some elbows into the mix.

THE BURLAP SACK

Being a political apathist myself, I've tried to avoid the Coke issue as best I can, but it seems that even an ignoramus like myself isn't safe from the leviathan grip of the political machine. But since I've gotten involved, it's become apparent that Coke has crossed a line.

The other day, I ventured down into SUB Mart to quench my thirst with a delicious, refreshing bottle of Barq's-brand Root Beer. It really has bite, you know. Much to my dismay, however, something had gone awry. As my fingertips massaged the little plastic cap in a counter-clockwise twist, I discovered the source of the trouble: Coca-Cola has changed their bottle caps.

Have you seen this shit? The tall, proud caps from days of yore are no more! The friction-friendly ribbed surfaces have been replaced by a pale imitation of their former selves, pathetic, stubby caps that my manly digits can't hope to tackle. How does Coke even hope for me to get at the sweet, succulent elixir encased within its tapered crystal temple when I can't even get the goddamned lid off?

Mark my words, Cola-boys. You've made yourselves a powerful enemy today. Were I able to choose Mug Root Beer on campus, I now would, but consider my switching from bottles to cans a message: my corporate beverage desires are *not* to be trifled with—into the sack you go!

MIKE KENDRICK

Obey your beverage agreement!



JONN
KMECH

“Still, I sympathize with supporters of SAKCoke for their noble fight against the corporation’s tyranny and extend my hand to them. And in that hand is a cold glass of The Real Thing. Seriously, have they tried it? Because if they did, they’d understand the savoury goodness that Coke Yes is so crazy about.”

In the midst of a debate that’s been weighed down by political mudslinging, bylaw malarkey and cartoon Colombian buoyancy, there’s one side of the Coke debate that students haven’t had a chance to consider—a choice that’s integral to their ability to make an educated, unbiased choice in the next two days. That is, the smooth, crystal-clear taste of an ice-cold Coca-Cola, and the image associated with drinking one. I urge the students of this University to vote with their taste buds and take an invigorating swig of Coke.

As students, we can’t just consume any run-of-the-mill carbonated liquid. Coke isn’t just some cold beverage at our University, it’s *the* cold beverage, as sanctioned by written decree and without question of any alleged human rights or environmental abuses. I highly doubt that a lesser corporate machine could deliver a more delicious perspiring bottle of flavoured sugar water to a student body eager to quench his or her powerful thirst for satisfying sales quotas.

I can’t worry about pesticides in Indian drinks if I myself am being violated by briefly having to consider consuming an inferior cold beverage. Still, I sympathize with supporters of SAKCoke for their noble fight against the corporation’s tyranny and extend

my hand to them. And in that hand is a cold glass of The Real Thing. Seriously, have they tried it? Because if they did, they’d understand the savoury goodness that Coke Yes is so crazy about—and what causes them feverishly to push their pro-Coke agenda without making an attempt to consider facts or opinions on their opponents’ side. Unfortunately, SAKCoke is the victim in that case, and not prone to such partisan shenanigans itself—and I respect them for that.

Their ability to inform students without bias by plastering our campus’ doors and bathroom walls with stickers is commendable, and will certainly drive a multi-billion dollar empire away from the University, as well as grant the Colombians the freedom to choose which of the many other death squads in Colombia gets to kidnap their families.

But I digress. If not Coke, then who would we consider to satisfy our liquid assets? Pepsi? Blind taste tests have shown that when compared, Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola are both syrup-based acidic brown beverages with no nutritional content whatsoever, offered by gigantic multinationals with a huge global reach and little concern for the little man. As such, I’m skeptical as to whether Pepsi has the potential to offer the same selection of cola, diet cola,

lemon-lime, assorted juice and filtered-water products to our campus, along with similarly questionable business practices in India and Myanmar.

Most criminally, Pepsi would probably lock the students into some oppressive binding contract where they’re forced to pay \$1.75 for water that bears an elegant, soothing name. And would you really want to see the day when your children attend a U of A campus that offers Dasani and Aquafina? I know I don’t.

Remember, the slogan is “Always Coca-Cola,” not “Probably Coca-Cola, as long as we can keep our scholarships” or “Stop Coca-Cola so we can stay on our moral high horse.” So the next time the heavenly aura of the red label lies vertical to your mouth, just remember that your vote for this non-binding plebiscite—which will likely be decided by just a fifth of the student population—matters.

So you can either pledge to keep the smooth taste of the drink associated with said label and its associates flowing down your throat for years to come, or demand that, in the future, you can buy virtually the same products with different labels from a different corporation for the same price. The choice truly is yours, in the sense that the University and SU will do whatever they want in the end anyways.

This year’s SU election will be a joke indeed



MIKE
SMITH

my belief that the state of student politics at our university is ludicrous. Equally as distressing is the very real cost we’re paying for these candidates’ campaigns. Each joke candidate, if they use up their allotted funding, will cost the students of this school \$350–375, meaning they could leave the SU on the hook for over \$1400.

Now, I know this question is probably asked a lot in regards to the SU, but is this really what my dues are going to? I mean, if we really want to throw away money so frivolously, just leave the Powerplant open another year—which, at this rate, is losing more than \$1400 every week.

We mustn’t be too quick to blame any one person or organization, however. It’s not really the joke candidates’ faults—they’re just operating under the system stated in the electoral regulations for their own amusement and the amusement of their fellow students. Rather, it’s the fault of people not taking elections seriously—and who can blame them? The joke candidates ultimately aren’t funny in terms of how we view our student elections; at least, I’m not laughing.

The only positive thing I can think of for this many joke candidates is that it allows us to delude ourselves into thinking this is an effective part of the democratic process. Last year, two candidates—Amanda Henry and Chris Samuel—ran completely unopposed, which didn’t feel very democratic at all. And we wouldn’t want to make our student electorate feel disillusioned or apathetic about the system, would we?

gateway literary contest

categories:

- 1 Short Fiction (under 1500 words)
- 2 Really Short Fiction (under 150 words)
- 3 Haiku
- 4 Sonnet
- 5 Limerick
- 6 Photography

*** Deadline Extended to Sunday 11 March at 6pm**

Have you always wanted to see your ramblings published on newsprint? Twelve thousand pieces of newsprint? Well, friends, you’re in luck—the *Gateway* has a circulation of 12 000, is totally printed on newsprint and wants to publish your writing.

This contest is open to any U of A student who can string a sentence together or snap a picture, and who isn’t currently a *Gateway* volunteer. Winners will have their writing published, and we’ll even throw in some fantastic prizes.

Entries will be judged on creativity and style. Submissions must be original, cannot have been published previously, and will not be considered if they are hateful in nature. Submit your entries to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca or bring them to 3-04 SUB by 4 March, 2007. Contestants may only enter once per category. Please include your name, program and year, and e-mail address. Unfortunately, entries will not be returned.

THE GATEWAY

LINE EDITORS

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the following line editor positions** for the 2007/2008 publishing year:

- MANAGING EDITOR
- SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
- DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
- OPINION EDITOR
- SPORTS EDITOR
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
- PHOTO EDITOR
- DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1549.50* per month; all other line editors will receive \$1222.00* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 9 March 2007.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.
** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/fsjs

THE GATEWAY



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Gateway Comics: Some Skill Required *

* Skills include: being raised by wolves, dressing provocatively, batting one's eyelashes, discovering wrinkles in time, the ability to save dogs from drowning, turtle-hunting, succumbing to peer pressure, being water soluble, taking a dump and, um, drawing ... if you can't do that other stuff.

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca

THE GATEWAY

Scanning poop jokes at
300dpi since 1910

An all-too convenient excuse

Our political and business leaders need to face up to the truth and put the environment ahead of the economy—and it starts with Alberta's oil sands



CHRIS
VIARD

There was once a time when it was thought that we could never exhaust our natural capital, simply because there was so much of it. The development of the Alberta oil sands over the last several decades has served to illustrate how wrong that assumption is. Thankfully, Canadians from all parts of the country are getting the message of how critical the state of the environment is, both for our own preservation and, by extension, the overall health of our economy. Simply put, an uninhabitable world is not a friendly place to conduct commerce.

Unfortunately, this message is lost on the business-friendly government of Alberta and the oil companies who are seeking a five-fold increase in oil sands development. In addition to permanently destroying vast boreal forests in what is no less than an open-pit mining operation, the barrels of oil we sell so cheaply serve to undercut the need for conservation in both countries. Why would they reduce their consumption of oil knowing that Alberta is willing to give them all the oil they need, regardless of how much greenhouse gas it produces?

The current sitting in Parliament is a clear indication of how important the environment has become to Canadians. The three opposition parties have even passed a bill requiring the Canadian government to fulfill its

obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, despite Harper's insistence that the goals cannot be met.

Although difficult, these requirements are nothing short of international law, and this country has an obligation at least to try and achieve them. If this requires us to purchase emission credits from elsewhere in the world, then so be it. We can take solace in the fact that our negligence in enacting standards for industry, specifically in Alberta, will at least reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted elsewhere in the world by the purchase of credits.

Current production has made much of northern Alberta into an eerie moonscape, where an area the size of Maryland and Virginia combined are forever altered to quench our addiction to oil.

Here in Alberta, a familiar story is unfolding. Premier Ed Stelmach went on television to announce that Alberta will proceed with oil sands development in just the same haphazard manner as his predecessor Ralph Klein. In the same greedy fashion, he pretty much told the rest of Canada to back off of regulation that might make industry responsible to Alberta and the rest of the country. No planning needed—just the assumption that the social and environmental problems

will simply rectify themselves.

Current production has made much of northern Alberta into an eerie moonscape, where an area the size of Maryland and Virginia combined are forever altered to quench our addiction to oil. And let's not forget that the oil companies are destroying whole forests at a remarkable rate in order to get the oil out, so in addition to the higher environmental toll attributable to the production of heavy oil, we also lose the carbon offset afforded by hundreds of kilometres of trees. Take a look at this new Alberta landscape on Google Maps—it's truly staggering.

The Kyoto Protocol is about absolute reductions, rather than the "intensity" targets for increased efficiency espoused by Harper and Stelmach's Conservative governments. If we agree—and most people now do—that we emit too many greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, then nothing short of absolute reductions will suffice.

Intensity targets simply mean that for every barrel of oil produced, there is to be a reduction in the amount of emissions released. This dishonest approach falls apart when we consider that the US and Alberta governments are being seriously persuaded to increase oil sands production five times over.

In a recent article in the *Globe and Mail*, it was estimated that the amount of net emissions under Harper's intensity targets would increase by an astounding 248 per cent (based on 2000 levels) if all the approved projects proceed. I'm no mathematician, but the government's insistence that it plans to deal effectively with global warming is sounding more and more like hot air.

Oh, the Humanities building!



MELISSA
PRIESTLEY

"Your caffeine-fuelled, end-of-term freak-out will likely produce far worse symptoms than those described above. However, the fact remains that any increase in CO₂ concentration is unhealthy, and as someone who usually spends several hours every day in this building, I have reason to be concerned."

For those of you who regularly spend time in the Humanities Centre, you may want to think about changing your major.

As you may have heard by now, one of the building's main fans powering the circulation system broke over Reading Week. The system isn't out for good, but it's currently running at only about half-power. This has resulted in patchy, partial heating throughout the building. Some rooms are freezing and drafty, others are hot and stuffy. But have no fear, boys and girls, for the problem will be solved—in a few months.

I can deal with a room that's a little too chilly or warm. Sweaters, for example, are wonderful devices that can be put on or removed as needed. Before the fan went out, many of my classes were already sub-zero, so I haven't noticed too much of a difference. But what I have trouble accepting is the other consequence of ailing circulation: lack of proper carbon dioxide ventilation.

With the system running at half-power, CO₂ isn't getting ventilated

from the building as fast as it should, and has therefore started accumulating. Elevated levels of CO₂ in the air can cause numerous effects on the human body, including hypercapnia, which lowers the body's shivering threshold and increases core cooling rate. As you can guess, this messes with the body's temperature regulation, the effects of which will only be intensified in rooms that are already too hot/cold. It can also cause flushed skin, irregular heartbeat, muscle twitches and higher blood pressure. In severe cases, symptoms include disorientation, panic, hyperventilation, convulsions, unconsciousness and even death.

Now I'm not saying that you'll die if you spend time in the Humanities Centre—unless, perhaps, you're a philosophy grad student. CO₂ levels would have to be 40 times higher than they usually are, and you would have to spend prolonged periods of time in this environment.

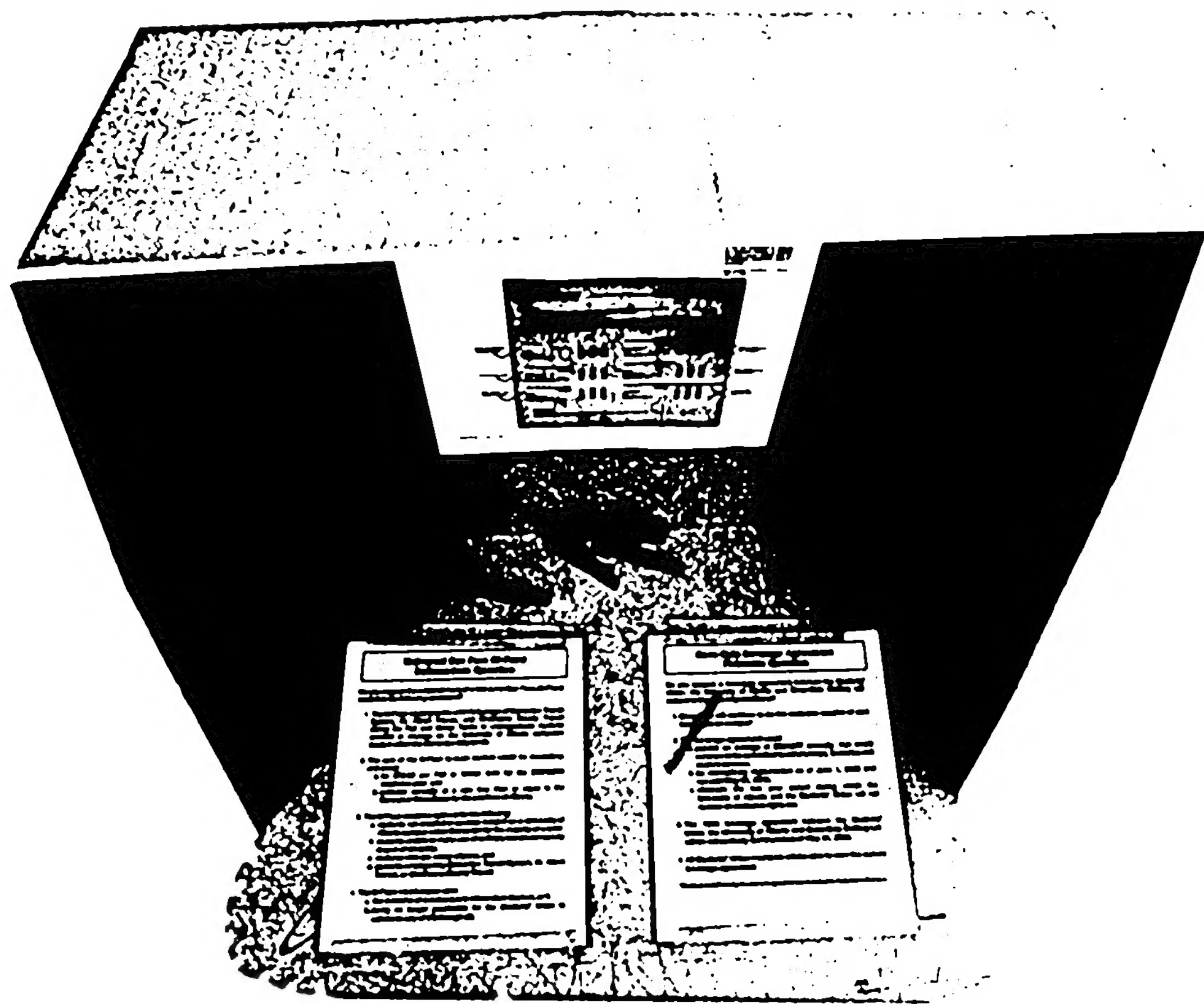
Your caffeine-fuelled, end-of-term freak-out will likely produce symptoms far worse than those described

above. However, the fact remains that any increase in CO₂ concentration is unhealthy, and as someone who usually spends several hours every day in this building, I have reason to be concerned.

I'm sure you're all sick of hearing Arts students whingeing about how ignored, neglected and/or unloved they are, and how it's unfair that while the Engineers get a big shiny new building, we quietly rot in a forgotten corner of campus. This isn't a plea for a brand new building to call home. It isn't even a plea to replace the falling-apart, baby-shit-orange furniture or burned-out lights in the bathroom—I, for one, enjoy peeing in the dark.

What this is a plea for is a healthy learning environment, with air that's safe to breathe. Seems like a basic right, and one that should be taken for granted—but as this situation has shown, it clearly isn't.

Then again, you could always use the Humanities' crappy circulation as a creative, inarguable excuse for that last D or the odd manic outburst.



ELECTION DISSECTION

Taking a scalpel to the thick rhetoric of student government

written by Matt Frehner

photos by Krystina Sulatycki and Josh Nault

U-Pass Referendum

While there's nobody running the No side of this campaign, Kirkham felt it was important that students understand for what exactly they are voting. Though we're unanimous that student should vote an "informed and philosophically considered Yes," students should understand the impact of voting Yes over voting No. Students outside of the three municipalities must still pay for the pass, regardless of their ability to use the service. Park-and-ride is an option in some areas but not in others. Students who chose to pay more rent to live close to the University must still pay, and parking rates are slated to increase to compensate for the money the University is setting aside for the U-Pass. It's also possible that most of those driving to campus will continue to do so, as faculty and staff create the bulk of traffic—the U-Pass won't impact this.

Fundamentally, this is a question of how students want to redistribute their money. And for most students, the pass will be a huge gain. It's true that Edmonton is a low-density city, which may mean that transit access isn't ideal, and that those who drive must drive, due to limits of transit system. But as Lettner points out, we need to look at what we want Edmonton to be five or ten years down the line.

Despite these reservations, for most students this pass will be of great benefit. The change that will come to Edmonton through a universal bus pass is progressive and positive—it will be a boon for most students right now, and also increase pressure on the City to improve our lacklustre transit system. Finally, it's important that we look past self interest and toward something that will benefit the bulk of students, as well as the environment in general.

The Verdict: An Informed Yes

Yes: 5 (Barer, Butz, Lettner, Taylor, Prusakowski); No: 2 (Jones, Kirkham)

Coca-Cola Plebiscite

"I'm voting Coke No because if someone comes up to me and says, 'You get money for scholarships, and the SU gets \$50 000 a year, and that does great stuff, and it doesn't really matter anyway,' it's not a very convincing argument," Lettner says.

"Obviously Coke is making a profit off of us, because ... they're trying to grow the whole next generation of Coke drinkers. So it's not a trivial choice: it actually means something, and you're buying in to selling out right from the get-go," he adds.

The general sentiment around the table seems to be that, though the contract might yield short-term gains, small steps in the right direction can actually make a difference in end. Unfortunately, pre-campaigning rules have stifled the ability for students to enter into critical debate about the Coke question.

"We haven't been able to get at the fundamental issues about why students should be voting No," Kirkham says, pointing to the \$900 fine received by the No side. "[It has] deprived students of the ability to make an informed choice and has hidden the real issue."

Still, compelling reasons exist for voting No. "The ethical issues aside, for which I don't think the evidence is compelling enough, why should we subject ourselves to a monopoly? Why would we subject ourselves to hyper-corporatization?" Prusakowski asks.

"For me, the ethical arguments are the ones that are persuasive," Butz counters, suggesting that we have enough to go on to indict them as a corporation. And for students on campus, boycotting Coke products is really not an option. No matter how strong our convictions are, sometimes we just need to say, "Fuck it, I need an orange juice."

Jones, meanwhile, takes a more Machiavellian approach. "I have no problems with selling out, but not at this price:

With an eye to wading through the pounds of feces thrown about during Students' Union elections each year, and perhaps extracting something of substance from the vague promises and platitudes, the *Gateway* compiled a crack team of SU election gurus; they'll be your guides, if you will, through the shit-storm that is SU elections.

The panel was comprised of Steve Kirkham (former SU councillor, campaign manager and creator of Bear Scat), Chris Jones (long-time SU observer, two-time executive candidate and Health Plan No campaign manager), Duncan Taylor (former vice-president (student life) and then councillor), Graham Lettner (former Engineering councillor and former SU president), Rob Butz (former APIRG board member and candidates' graphic designer), Ariana Barer (former campaign manager, former associate VP (external) and CJSR news producer), and Ross Prusakowski (long-time SU observer and *Gateway* writer). Each spent the past week taking in the fora and candidate "literature," laughing at the bright eyes of Ursa Minor while crying every time someone mentioned the Powerplant.

Surprisingly, despite our group's diverse (at least in terms of experience) background, we reached near-consensus on almost every issue. We also noticed some disturbing trends in both candidate demographics and student involvement.

First, there's a depressing lack of female candidates, or diversity in general, in this year's election. It seems obvious to state that there's a problem with the amount of women involved in politics, and the SU (along with this panel) is no exception. Second, SU elections are the only time where there is real dialogue between the SU and regular students, and yet general involvement seems to be on the decrease, while student apathy is on the rise. This may be partly due to the fact that it gets harder and harder to live and go to school every year, which means less people running, and in turn students have less of an ability to voice their concerns.

With that said, read on to find out how we thought each candidate fared and whether they're worthy of your vote, as well as our take on the U-Pass and Coke questions. Keep in mind, though, that these statements are inevitably clouded by our collective experience, so our recommendations are no substitute for becoming informed on the issues at stake. Above all, take our comments with the appropriate grain of salt.

it's far too low," he says.

But to Taylor, the problem with voting No is that it means we lose our place at the bargaining table, as well as damage accessibility for those who need it most.

As he points out we need to look at how this principled stance is impacting access to education. Any loss in Students' Union funding has the potential to affect advocacy, student life and the quality of our services.

"The per-student amount is irrelevant: what matters is what the total figure represents. I have no problem with the SU taking a principled stance ... the problem is, at this point, a principled stance would impact accessibility to education, which in the end is the primary goal of the SU," Taylor says.

Instead, Taylor suggests, we use our collective buying power to effect change. Having the contract gives us leverage, whereas saying No writes us out of the picture.

Butz, however, sees this plebiscite question as part of something larger. "Some people who are super-libertarian or free-enterprise think we shouldn't have a monopoly. Other people are more concerned about human rights, but all these issues converge, and I think that's where we have a political moment where we have to make a decision on something," he says.

The problem here is that students who support No do so for a plethora of different, equally good reasons, and this will make it difficult for the SU to chart a path that's consistent with what students may want. For some who are specifically anti-Coke, another exclusivity contract might not be a big deal, whereas for others it's crucial that the SU distance itself from any potential monopolies whatsoever.

As Jones concludes: there are many compelling reasons to vote No, and few to vote Yes.

The Verdict: Majority Rules

Yes: 1 (Taylor); No: 6 (Jones, Kirkham, Barer, Prusakowski, Lettner, Butz)



President

“My problem with Cody Lawrence is that he’s a real paint-by-numbers candidate,” says Butz. “If someone who’d never been on campus was told he had to run for President tomorrow, what would he say? What would his platform look like? Exactly like Cody’s.”

Though Cody isn’t as bad as some of the third-choice candidates in the past, and seems to have at least a vague grasp on what being President entails, the real decision comes down to two candidates: Amanda Henry and Michael Janz. Both are strong in their own right.

“Which one you choose depends largely on your vision of what the SU President should be, and what your vision is of what the SU does,” says Taylor.

Where Henry focuses on her background in academic concerns and advocacy, Janz puts forward a broader student focus, aimed more at the day-to-day.

Henry has a lot of experience within the SU’s advocacy machine, as evidenced by her work as associate VPA and then VPA during the last couple of years, and uses her campaign to reinforce the SU’s recent advocacy efforts off campus as well as continue her work on teaching quality. Her platform includes phrases like: lobby, strategize, collaborate and negotiate—Barer sees this as “more action, less talk,” but Taylor is skeptical of Henry’s buzz words.

Janz, meanwhile, is weak on advocacy but strong on student life, no doubt coming from his experience as Lister Hall Students’ Association President.

“He’s taking more risks,” Taylor notes. “Some of the ideas are completely awful, like putting a Second Cup in the Powerplant ... but he shows a willingness to dream and think big, to touch on student life as well as advocacy.”

The biggest worry with Janz is that he will get lost within the lobbying machine: he doesn’t strike us as the best face to present to the City and the province. Amanda brings an ability to communicate externally as well as internally, Kirkham notes, and this is something Janz doesn’t seem to have.

“You may say that grace isn’t an important quality that you need in a President, but I think it is, especially in dealing with

the Administration,” he adds.

However, this gap in Janz’ portfolio could be made up for by a strong VPX, which Dollansky certainly has the potential to be.

We talk a lot about the need for the SU to see beyond its current Executive and year—to approach advocacy, academics and student life with a long-term plan that can produce results.

It’s clear that Henry has the ability to deliver this, but there’s also the concern that she could become complacent because of her large amount of time within the SU clique, a group that doesn’t always listen to the concerns of students. In contrast, Janz has the potential to shake things up a bit within the SU.

But we need to be worried about creating a false dichotomy here, as Janz and Henry seem to desire: students need not choose between a President that focuses on student needs directly, and one that has his or her eye on external matters exclusively.

“Amanda doesn’t necessarily lack all these things that Janz talks about, but she’s focused her argument a bit more,” Barer notes. “Amanda is thinking long-term about playing within a team—not just the one that exists currently, but what came before and after.”

“You may say that grace isn’t an important quality that you need in a president, but I think it is, especially in dealing with the Administration.”

Butz adds that Janz is thinking in the short-term about the push for a tuition rollback when he suggests that it hasn’t produced results.

“When I see Mike’s platform, I see the problem I had with mine, in that it was too broad, it was a catch-all,” Lettner says, noting that Henry’s ability to speak to questions directly while answering them holistically makes her the better candidate.

Both candidates will certainly be able to do the job well. Jones liked Janz’ discussion of student housing and rent issues, while Butz felt that it misses the point.

“When I look at Janz’ platform—sorry to say—I see the kind of things that could be carried out if you elected a lamppost,” he says. “Lobbying, in reality, is the most practical thing you can do as SU President.”

Each will be able to work as a strong leader for the Executive, as well as take the flack when need be, though Prusakowski notes that Janz will likely be able to lead a better team.

“In the end it comes down to a question of style, and where you think the focus should be,” Jones says. “And there are legitimate arguments for both sides.”

The Verdict: Split Decision

Undecided: 1 (Lettner); Janz: 1(Taylor); Henry: 5 (Jones, Butz, Barer, Kirkham, Prusakowski)

Vice-President (Student Life)

Though his only competition is a poorly stuffed puffy ball, Chris Le certainly has volunteer management experience necessary to take on the reins of VPXL, especially with his previous work for Orientation. However, he clearly lacks ambition.

“When you’re campaigning, you can bring up a lot of ideas, and get a lot of buy in,” Lettner notes, pointing out that Le lacks any real “spark.”

While it’s possible that he has a bit of the “running unopposed syndrome,” where he’s afraid to speak out on anything in particular lest he alienate potential voters, the reality is that no acclaimed candidate is ever going to lose to none of the above (NOTA), and so it’s disappointing that he hasn’t used this as an opportunity to take a stance on some real issues and let students know in what direction he wants to take the VPXL portfolio.

Basically, the dude lacks a vision. There’s no doubt that he will do a competent job as VPXL, and won’t run Week of Welcome and Antifreeze into the ground, but we’d really like to see him sink his teeth into a substantial issue. The VPXL portfolio itself is quite vague, but that’s no excuse.

“Often candidates are vague, but he’s really vague,” Barer says.

As for where a VPXL candidate should focus their campaign, Jones would like to hear about Orientation and ways to improve it, while Prusakowski sees the rumblings about abolishing ECOS’ budget—or other prospective service cuts that may become increasingly necessary as the SU falls deeper into the red—as something a perspective candidate could bring into their portfolio, considering there’s a lot of room for ambitious undertakings in such a nebulous and underused position.

“If he wanted to take a real stance, he could talk about how some students feel really marginalized on campus—including international students and student activists—so pushing ECOS could be a really good idea,” agrees Butz.

Other issues that really affect students, including the continual problem of Aramark food in residences, are left unaddressed, and in the end it seems that Le is playing typical hack politics. Microwaves? Come on. Surely you can be a bit more adventurous, Le.

Fortunately, Chubby Puff Ball sucks. “Worst joke candidate I’ve ever seen,” says Taylor.

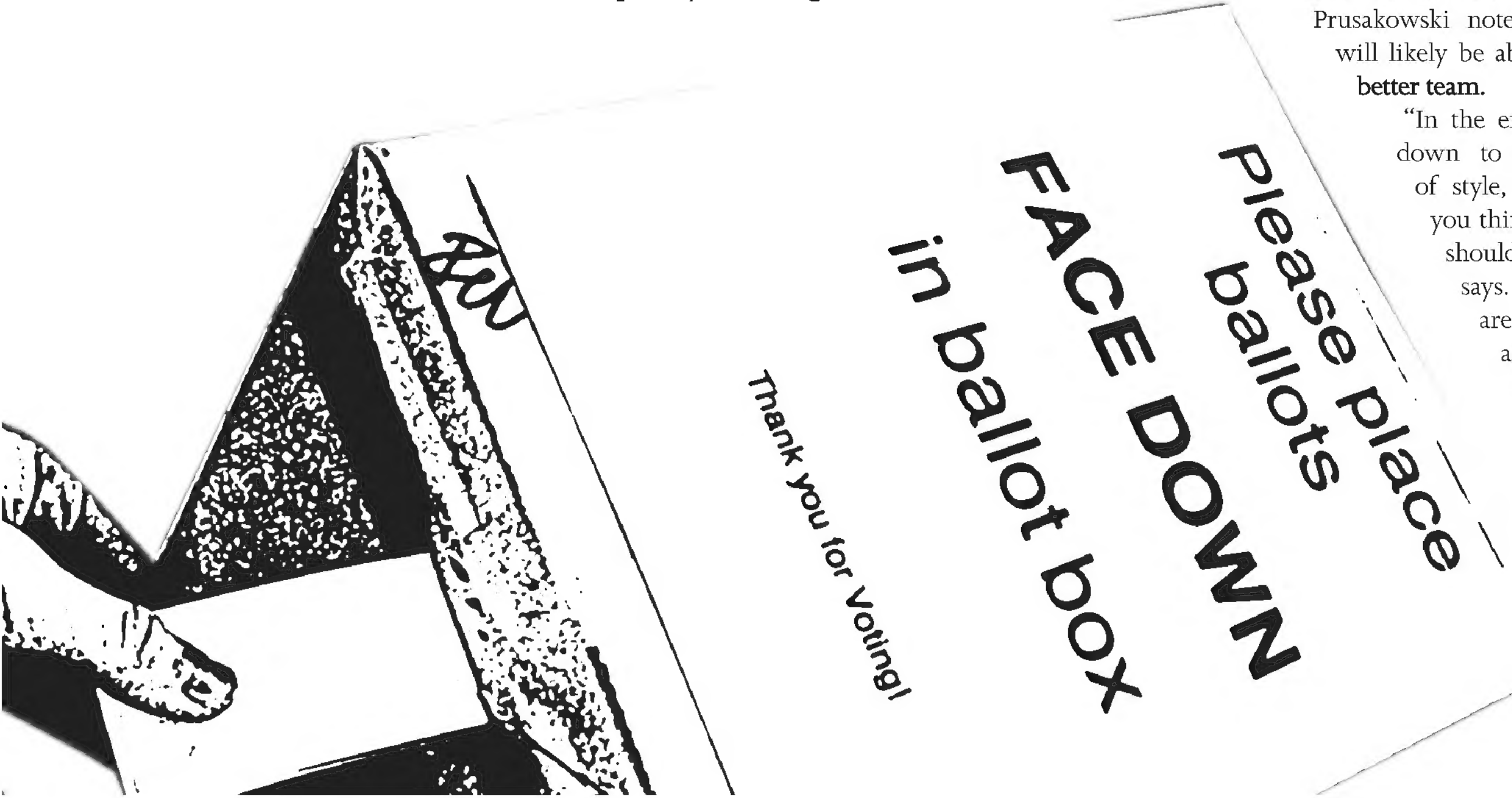
The Verdict: Majority Rules

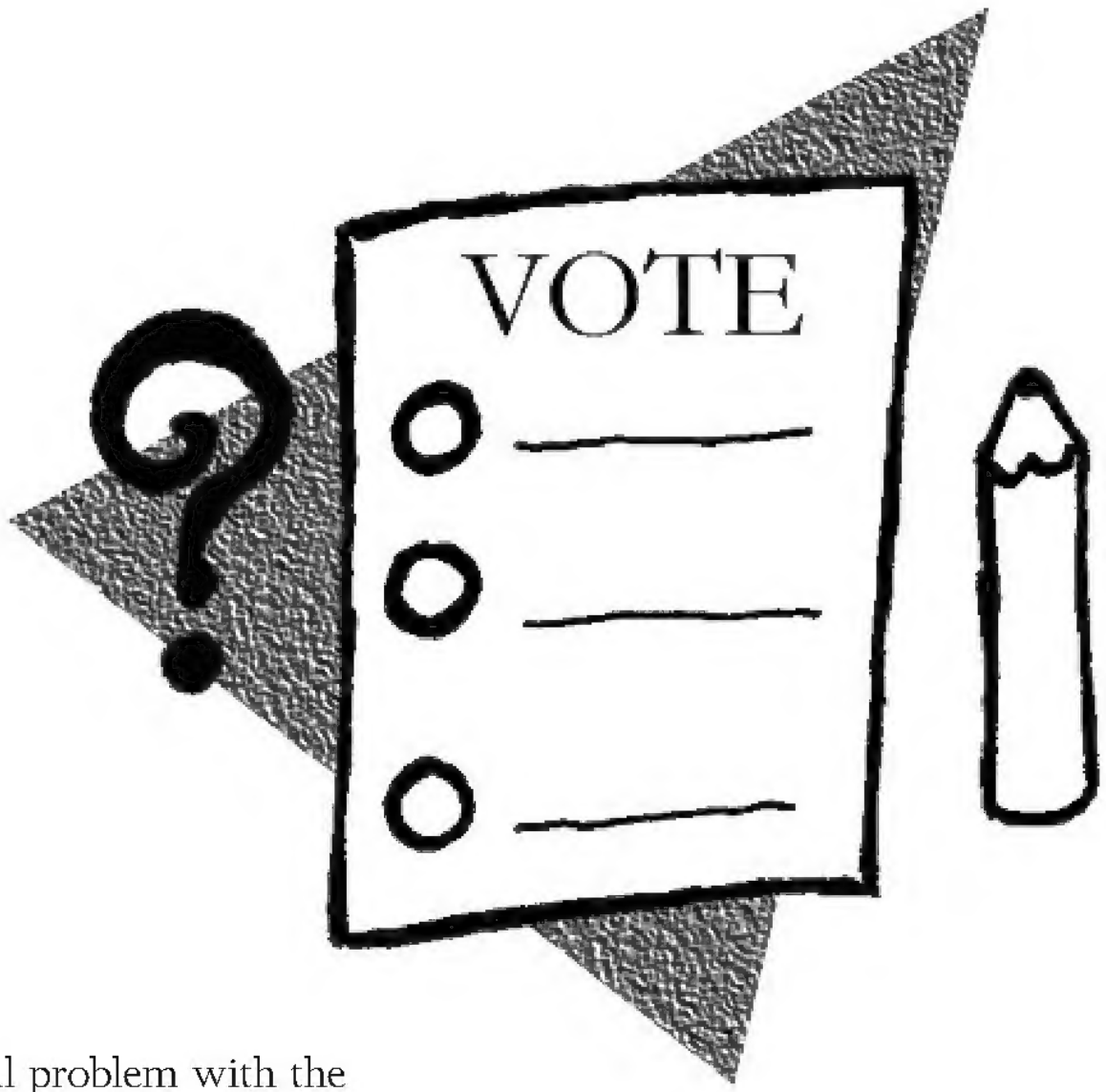
Le: 6; NOTA: 1 (Butz)

Vice-President (External)

Largely, Steven Dollansky is in the same boat as Chris Le. He seems competent—perhaps, as Lettner notes, “because he looks competent”—and pulls a few more stops than Le, but still plays it safe and covers all the points a VPX candidate should.

“I like his idea to conduct a [student] survey,” Taylor says. “Because I think one of the problems the SU has is that the only time they are able to





talk to students is during elections, and even then it's a very one-way conversation."

Indeed, if we changed the name and the picture, Dollansky could very well be any number of VPX candidates from the past few years.

"He's very stay the course. I'm not seeing anything novel here," notes Jones.

"Status quo isn't so bad in the [VPX portfolio]. One of the problems the SU seems to have is that every year we change the direction, the image, everything about the way we do lobbying," Kirkham counters.

In general, Dollansky's point about a rural focus is well taken, especially in the new Ed Stelmach government, but he'll also need to have an eye to upcoming elections beyond the SU.

"Now is the year for elections—municipally, federally and provincially—where all the moons are aligned," Lettner says. "[A VPX] needs to pick something, flesh it out and run with it the entire way."

And it does seem like Dollansky has this in his radar.

Meanwhile, Butz finds Dollansky's stance on tuition lacking. "There's this focus on reducing tuition, but no one really ever takes dramatic steps, like saying it should be nominal, or cut to a third, or to zero," he says, adding that the tuition ball is in our court, and so it's our turn to push the government ensure that tuition isn't an elitist privilege.

While Jones disagrees with Butz on lowering tuition versus increasing scholarships and bursaries, he does agree that what's needed is a concrete proposal: year-to-year changes in tuition policy and direction must be hugely frustrating for the government, and so the VPX will need to survey what's gone before in order to chart a course that will be progressive but not absolutely revolutionary. They can't unilaterally shove a "War on Tuition" down Steady Eddie's throat; but at the same time, they should be open to more radical forms of protest.

Dollansky certainly seems to have a strong head on his shoulders and will probably be able to present himself to government in a professional way while still representing students. Barer, though, was unimpressed by Dollansky's stance on the issue of joining a federal lobbying group like CFS or CASA, and his comment that he'll "look into it but probably do nothing." And Kirkham reminds us that there's nothing overly spectacular in his platform.

In tune with this, Lettner offers a general comment about the two unopposed candidates. "People should see campaigning as a way to come up with ideas and push them, get them out there, and set the stage for the work they're going to do as opposed to opting for the latest provincial PC election platform where it was just like, let's not do anything because they'll just forget and vote us in anyway. Don't take that style of course. Both these candidates had a bigger chance to run with it, especially because they were unopposed," he says.

Soundwave, meanwhile, isn't really funny at all, his hilariously on-point Horowitz performance notwithstanding. Though as Taylor notes, it does seem that the Yusuf family has a strange Transformers fetish. "Maybe they were suckled at the teat of Optimus Prime," he offers.

The Verdict: Unanimous
Dollansky

Vice-President Academic

"Every year it's blatantly obvious who the best candidate is for this race, and this year is probably the most obvious out of any I've seen in the past five," Kirkham says. (And we must keep in mind that for the last two years, VPA candidates have run acclaimed.)

Bobby Samuel has good ideas, has clearly talked to people about what should be in his campaign and is aware of the Academic Plan—which is still important, even if it is vague and idealistic. Meanwhile, we'd rather see a by-election than see Bryant Lukes in office. His campaign is called "abysmal and atrocious" by Kirkham, a sentiment echoed almost unanimously around the room.

Even Taylor, who usually has a soft spot for those who run for the SU from outside of its inner clique, as they are often more willing to take a stand on things that actually affect students, agrees. VPA is the one position where knowing the intricacies of the system is indispensable, as you need to know how to manipulate the University's bureaucracy to students' advantage. And there's no way Lukes would be able to handle and work with the SU Administration.

"For Bryant Lukes it would be Mount Everest,"

"The whole notion of financing student groups through business profits is utterly flawed. It doesn't recognize the basic laws of capitalism, which is that businesses turn over different profits from year to year."

Taylor says, whereas Samuel focuses on specific platform points, and comes off as very knowledgeable and prepared. He has the potential to get things done in the vein of strong VPAs like Amanda Henry and Janet Lo.

And as Butz points out, even in regards to Lukes' so-called crux issue—climate change—Samuel has brought up the Community Service Learning program (though, as Barer points out, he doesn't quite understand the program and what the VPA's relationship to it might be), which has the potential to forward environmental concerns and student empowerment at the same time.

"As much as I, as someone from APIRG, might be expected to support someone with an environmental platform, I think you really need to talk about the politics of empowerment. You can't just educate society towards a better future. It doesn't work that way," Butz says, noting that CSL seems like something that could be used to promote the environment in a much more effective way.

I could never justify a vote for what [Lukes is] talking about," says Lettner. "He seems certifiably nuts. If you print something like [his flyers] and say, 'Hey, I'm running for VPA,' then there's no possible way that a student should vote for you." There's no place for environmental concerns in the platform of a Vice-President (Academic).

In the end, I think our collective sentiment is summed up by the fact that, at last Thursday's SUB forum, Kirkham was convinced that Lukes was a joke candidate.

The Verdict: Unanimous
Samuel

Vice-President (Operations and Finance)

As Jones says, the problem with VPOF is that anyone who takes the position ends up hating their job and hating their life.

"In a sense, it's a structural problem with the portfolio, as people look at the job from the outside and say, 'Hey, I get to affect the operations and the finances of the Students' Union,'" Jones says, noting sarcastically that all the VPOF can really do is sign cheques.

"I'm sort of glad the job is depressing and that they'll be stopped in their tracks," Butz adds. "The faster they quit the better, because the whole notion of financing student groups through business profits is utterly flawed. It doesn't recognize the basic laws of capitalism, which is that businesses turn over different profits from year to year."

The notion that groups such as APIRG or the Gateway would be funded by things like Powerplant profits is scary indeed, considering the turn around we've seen in recent years. And yet, both candidates have a strong focus on reducing fees and making cuts, when, as Lettner points out, the U of A's student fees are some of the lowest in the country.

The fact that Gamble seems to see the job as resumé padding doesn't bode well, either. "That disqualifies him right away," Prusakowski says. "They both have no concept of what the job entails. None of the Above should take this race, hands down."

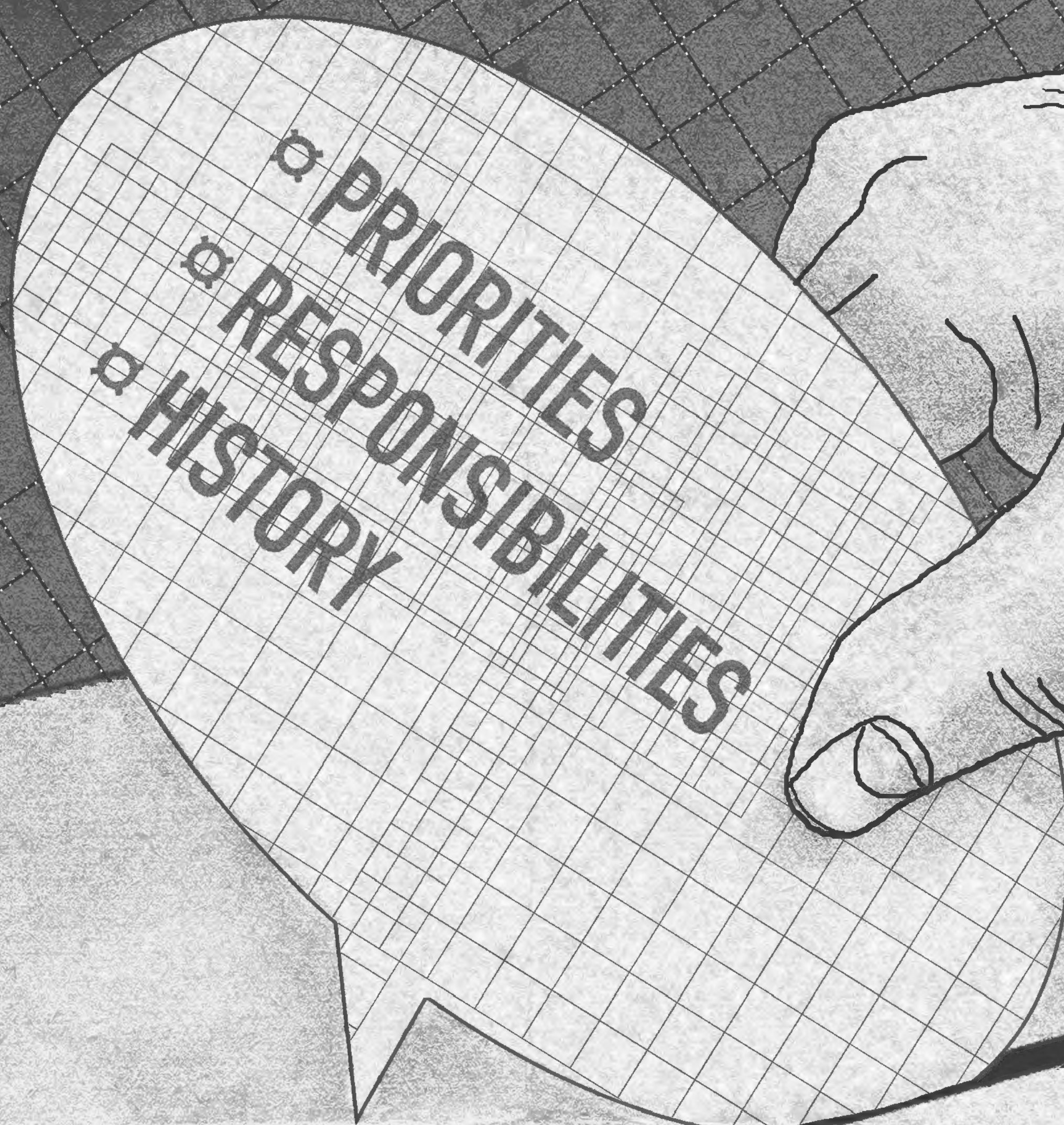
And as we peruse their Gateway interviews and handouts, it becomes clear that neither candidate is satisfactory in anyway.

Butz points to a "fetishization of profits" within the VPOF portfolio, a sense that somehow these candidates see a reduction student fees as a substitute for reducing tuition. On the contrary, we have no problem with the fee structure, as long as the services provided are worthwhile. It's difficult to justify the Powerplant's loss of over \$200 000 when nobody is using the service, but if it was a space that students enjoyed, some losses would be completely acceptable.

As it stands, nobody feels comfortable supporting either candidate over NOTA, though we're divided on who would be the lesser of two evils. Neither candidate has any real idea what the job entails. They're trapped at two poles: their ideas are completely petty or entirely nebulous—deserving of neither our attention nor our vote.

With that in mind, we've outlined what we would like to see in an acceptable VPOF candidate (as a dream candidate would, I think, be too much to ask). At base, they would need to have a long-term, concrete plan. Something that's ambitious but also realistic. Looking at the expansion of SUB, for example, something that will be a big issue in five-year's time. Or even a realistic approach to the 'Plant, that might involve shutting the place down. Surely there are some services that the SU doesn't currently provide. Or perhaps there are some that have outlived their usefulness? Maybe the VPOF could spend some time assessing and criticizing the University's own budget. Above all else, a successful VPOF candidate has to lose the attitude. Being a member of the Executive means playing as a team to serve students, not padding a resumé or arguing petty details. Regardless, at the moment we'd be voting for someone who we thought had the least probability of burning down the house—which, by all accounts, is a poor expression of democracy.

The Verdict: We're fucked
NOTA (Unanimous, but split on the lesser of two evils; however, Gamble takes the edge)



WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

THE STUDENTS' UNION IS YOUR VOICE. The leaders you elect will represent your interests to all levels of government, plan campus events, speak for you in the University community, and manage Students' Union-owned businesses.

You will also have the chance to approve or reject a proposed Universal Bus Pass (and associated annual fee), as well as a beverage agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling.

It doesn't take long to learn more about the candidates and proposed health plan. Read through this Gateway supplement, or stop by a candidate table—invest just a few minutes to make the right choice. The candidates you elect will work all year to make sure you get the most out of your University of Alberta experience, so take the time to make an informed decision.

WHERE DO I VOTE, AND WHAT DO I NEED?

There will be polling stations across the University of Alberta campus on Wednesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 8. Most polling stations will be open from 9 AM to 5 PM, but the SUB polling station will have extended hours and be open until 7:30 PM both days.

In order to vote you will need your OneCard. No other form of ID will be accepted by poll clerks.

For a list of polling stations and other election-related information, please visit the SU Elections website.



PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPRESENTING U OF A STUDENTS IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY AND FOR THE OVERALL POLICY AND OPERATIONAL DIRECTION OF THE STUDENTS’ UNION.

GEORGE RHO



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO... REDUCE STUDENT STRESS BECAUSE I(GEORGE RHO) KNOWS AND I(GEORGE RHO) UNDERSTANDS MY FELLOW STUDENTS PAINS.

My name is George Rho and I’m running for SU president because I want to help reduce student stress. In this ever changing and evolving world, more and more students are suffering from the stress that is involved in going to University. It is amazing that most students after graduation don’t immediately have a mental breakdown and suffer depression. It is therefore my plan to carry out the following ideas to reduce student stress:

- Reduce tuition at the university by a significant amount
- Ensure that there is plenty of free stuff be available to the student body
- Ensure that students have full access to programs to allow for school workload reduction
- Using my long and unbending experience of being on

this great UofA campus for the past few decades, I will guarantee that my many ideas of stress relief will be implemented. Hence why, if elected, my top priority as President will be to reduce student stress because I(George Rho) Knows and I(George Rho) Understands my fellow students pains.

AMANDA HENRY



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO.... EFFECTIVELY REFOCUS OUR POSITION ON AFFORDABILITY TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF ACADEMIC QUALITY.

Like it says, my name is Amanda Henry and I’m running for President of the Students’ Union.

As Vice President (Academic) I worked to inject a renewed focus on students into the University’s vision through Dare to Deliver – A Vision for a Great University. I also worked to “Make Teaching Matter” through the Professor of the Week program.

As President, I will fight to make sure that the Province and the University acknowledge that higher tuition has not resulted in a better educational experience, and to take tangible steps to close the gap between the quality of an education and the price. I will push publishing companies to do the same with textbooks and textbook prices.

The University has finally stopped insisting that “improvements” like giant lecture theatres actually make the undergraduate education better. We have new provincial leadership, which, if we keep the pressure on, represents an opportunity for students to have an impact on the priority that government places on higher education. The message that the Students’ Union carries to the Province must focus not only on making education more affordable, but also on making sure that the education we receive makes the grade.

WWW.AMANDAHENRY.ORG
VOTEAMANDA@GMAIL.COM

CODY LAWRENCE



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO ENSURE THE STUDENTS’ VOICES ARE HEARD, INTERESTS ARE SERVED, AND THEIR NEEDS ARE MET.

Hey. I’ve been to many schools, seen many student governments, and noted what the best strive for.

- Increased interaction on campus between faculties,
- knowing what’s happening in student government and seeing those elected more often than just at election time,
- and above all, seeking the interests of the students and acting on them.

Recently, I and a handful of volunteers from Lister and HUB went around campus surveying students about what they wanted this year. A majority pointed out a lack of events/activities or no awareness of them. Students also mentioned not wanting to vote because they don’t know what the SU does or know who is in power.

The biggest issue raised was student advocacy – everything from the big deal topics including lowered tuition

rates, to the smaller stuff that goes ignored: expanding and utilizing student space, career placement officers, accessible microwaves, and two-ply toilet paper.

Taking care of the issues within the University needs to take priority over external solutions. The students’ needs should be first and foremost. The reason that the Students Union exists at all is to see those needs are met.

Vote Cody Lawrence for President. Get what you need.

WWW.CODYFORPRESIDENT.COM

MICHAEL JANZ



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO...OFFER ACHIEVABLE SOLUTIONS TO STUDENT PROBLEMS THAT OFTEN GET FORGOTTEN BECAUSE OF THE TUITION DEBATE.

As President of Lister and as a SU Student Councillor, Janz has his thumb on the pulse of Student life. Janz believes the SU should be about more than just tuition advocacy. As President, he will ensure that the organization does not neglect other important student concerns.

Spoken English proficiency among Professors and TA's must be required. The wireless internet in SUB should work at high speeds all of the time. The SU must put an end to five years and hundreds of thousands of dollars of losses at the Powerplant by converting it into a lounge and study space with a brand name coffee shop. Student Groups deserve easier access to SU funding and less bureaucratic hassle.

Together with the University, Janz will lobby for more funding from the province. Tuition cannot be viewed as the only source of increased revenue. Student loan parental income restrictions must be eliminated. Scholarships, bursaries and non-repayable grant funding must be sought out by the SU. In a year with municipal and likely provincial and federal elections, Janz will be an effective representative for your interests. He will set a direction for the SU that is relevant to you.

URSA MINOR



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS PRESIDENT WILL BE TO...."INSTALL" GLOBAL TRACKING DEVICES IN EACH STUDENT.... TO BETTER "SERVE" AND "PROTECT" THEM.

Ursa Minor whirled to life in the spring of 2005 as the latest brainchild of the Autonomous Robotic Vehicle Project (ARVP). Specifically designed to chart new paths and overcome obstacles, it is programmed for ruthless efficiency, precision, and autonomy. Unlike humans, Ursa requires no heat, food, water or sleep and does not suffer from emotions, limited attention span, or a delicate fleshy cover. These attributes make Ursa an ideal candidate for jobs that are dangerous and/or unwanted by humans, eg. SU Executive.

As President, Ursa Minor will address three major issues affecting students: high tuition, RATT/Powerplant and the lack of robotic services on campus. Ursa will "negotiate", or if necessary, "persuade" government for better tuition, introduce robotic servers in RATT/Powerplant, and install robot charging and lubrication stations around campus.

Automation is the future. Vote robot. Vote Ursa Minor:

[HTTP://ARVP.ORG/VOTEROBOT](http://arvp.org/voterobot)

CHUCK NORRIS



MY NAME IS CHUCK NORRIS, AND I WILL BE THE NEXT SU PRESIDENT.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2007 MARCH 7TH 8TH

THE STUDENTS' UNION HAS A PROUD
HISTORY OF EVOLVING AND ADAPTING
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS

THE SU HAS ALWAYS been a strong advocate for students, and can point to a long history of accomplishments, such as building SUB and HUB Mall and successfully advocating for increased student representation at the Board of Governors and the General Faculties Council. In recent years, the Students' Union has created a number of new services such as Safewalk and the Student Financial Aid and Information Centre; established the Legacy, Access Student Involvement Endowment, and Campus Rec Enhancement Funds; opened new businesses (SUBtitles, Cue and the Print Centre); renovated SUB twice; and helped advocate

(successfully!) for increases to the education tax reduction—and that's just a few of the things the SU has been doing for you!

Past SU Alumni include such persons as Peter Lougheed (SU President 1951-52), Joe Clark (Gateway Editor-in-Chief 1959-60), and a former U of A Dean of Law Tim Christian (President 1970-71).

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ONE OF CANADA'S strongest student associations, the Students' Union represents the 30,000 undergraduate students at the University of Alberta. A nine million dollar organization with hundreds of paid and volunteer staff, the SU is a powerful advocate for students and a major provider of student services. The SU also operates a number of business units, manages various targeted 'trust' funds, hosts a wide variety of entertainment and educational events, and runs the Students' Union Building.

All University of Alberta undergraduates are members of the Students' Union.

VISION STATEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA Students' Union seeks to be recognized as a world-class student organization. In pursuing this objective, the Students' Union will strive to be an effective advocate of student concerns in front of all audiences, a provider of valued and value-added services and support to its membership, and a responsible business owner and operator.

In addition, the University of Alberta Students' Union will be recognized for an ethical and values-driven democratic culture, as a responsible and accountable steward of its resources, and as an innovator and leader in the governance and pursuit of its mandate.

VALUES STATEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA Students' Union holds the following Values to be paramount in the pursuit of its Vision.

Democracy – Our leadership receives its mandate from democratic institutions and practices; the spirit of democracy is a part of everything that we do. We are accountable to our members and electors.

Dignity – Each member, employee, customer, and associate of the Students' Union is entitled to be treated with respect and consideration as long as they respect the dignity of others.

Equality – We pledge to treat all without prejudice and preconception. Each person is due to equal consideration, attention, and opportunity.

Ethics – In the pursuit of our goals, we are expected to act ethically, with integrity, and with due consideration for the impact of our actions and decisions on others.

Innovation – We endeavor to proactively seek new and better ways to execute the tasks entrusted to us.

Leadership – We are committed to showing the way, upholding the right, bringing solutions not problems and providing hope.

Security and Safety – The security and safety of our members, employees, associates and customers is a consideration in all our endeavors.

Rule of Law – The Students' Union recognizes the rule of law in all of our endeavors, relationships and operations.

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 37 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 6 march, 2007



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

SMELLS LIKE SU ELECTION Presidential hopefuls Michael Janz, Cody Lawrence and Amanda Henry sound off during the candidates' forum at Myer Horowitz yesterday afternoon. Candidates running for all positions, as well as the referendum and plebiscite campaigns, spelled out their platforms and took questions from potential voters in preparation for the election, which takes place on 7-8 March. If you're hankering for more election coverage, you can find the candidate Q&As starting on page five, as well as a special, by-the-experts guide to the candidates and their platforms on page 13.

SU joke candidates not kidding around: CRO

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

On March 7 and 8, Soundwave, Chubby Puff Ball, Ursa Minor, Chuck Norris and George Rho will offer undergraduate students voting in the Students' Union elections some creative alternatives.

The five joke candidates are running for a variety of SU Executive positions. This year, any position that has a joke candidate vying for it is matched by an equal number of real candidates—and before a sixth joke candidate, Facebook, dropped out of the race, there had actually been more joke presidential candidates than real ones.

"It's really hard to predict the number of joke candidates we get each year," Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woynorowski said. "I think part of what might have helped encourage joke candidates to run this year is that joke candidates have a slightly increased budget."

She explained that while regular candidates receive \$550 per campaign, joke candidates had their funding raised up from half of that to two-thirds.

Woynorowski added that while some feel spending money on joke candidate campaigns is a waste of student dollars, in terms of advertising value, they play a significant role in attracting voters.

"It's a debate that was actually held in Students' Council earlier this year, and the reason why Council decided to continue to fund joke candidates and more so increase their budget is because joke candidates engage a portion of the population, which is normally not involved in the SU," she said.

"I think part of what might have helped encourage joke candidates to run this year is that joke candidates have a slightly increased budget."

**RACHEL WOYNOROWSKI,
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER**

"The payoff for us spending a couple hundred dollars to fund a joke candidate campaign to engage hundreds more students is a much more effective way than if we were to spend, let's say, the same amount of money on a Gateway ad."

PLEASE SEE **JOKE** ♦ PAGE 4
PLEASE SEE **SMITH** ♦ PAGE 11

Pandas win Nationals banner

Women's volleyball overcome first-seed curse to capture CIS championship

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

CALGARY—Though the first-seed has been anathema in the CIS women's volleyball championships for the past six seasons, the Pandas rode their top ranking to victory in Saturday's gold medal match in the Jack Simpson Gym at the University of Calgary. The 3-1 win over the Laval Rouge et Or—the defending champions—was the first time a favourite had won the Red River Trophy since 1999/2000, when Alberta took its last title.

"There's no feeling that matches this one in sport," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "Being able to play at their very best when it's most difficult to do it is the [mark] of a champion, and they were certainly able to do it today."

CIS Player of the Year and tournament MVP Tiffany Dodds carried Alberta all weekend—including a 32-kill, .509 hitting percentage performance in Friday's five-set semifinal victory over Calgary. Dinos coach Kevin Boyles called "the best individual performance from a women's volleyball I've ever seen." But, it was the rest of the Pandas offence that led the to victory on Saturday. Dodds still had 17 kills, but Jocelyn Blair and Samantha Wojtkiw added a dozen each, while outside hitter



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

BANNER YEAR The volleyball Pandas celebrate their first-place win in Calgary.

Tiffany Proudfoot had six and middle Alexa Berton finished with seven. Wojtkiw's pair of aces with the score 22-19 in the fourth set put the game out of reach before Dodds finished off the Rouge et Or.

"I looked at the board and saw it was 24, and I got really excited and could barely jump on the last serve," said Wojtkiw, a third-year middle in

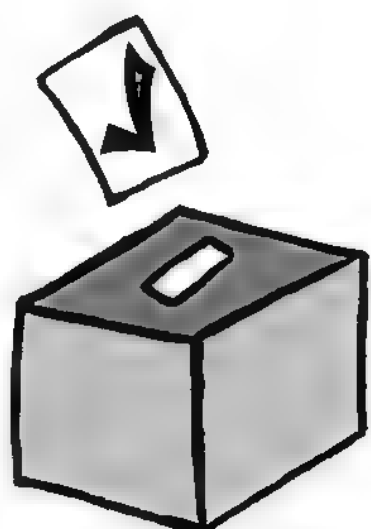
her first season with the Pandas after transferring from Grant MacEwan.

While all-Canadians Dodds and Blair were both named as tournament all-stars—along with setter Daryll Roper—the Pandas displayed versatility throughout the tournament.

PLEASE SEE **PANDAS** ♦ PAGE 30
ALSO READ **RENFREE** ON PAGE 28

Inside

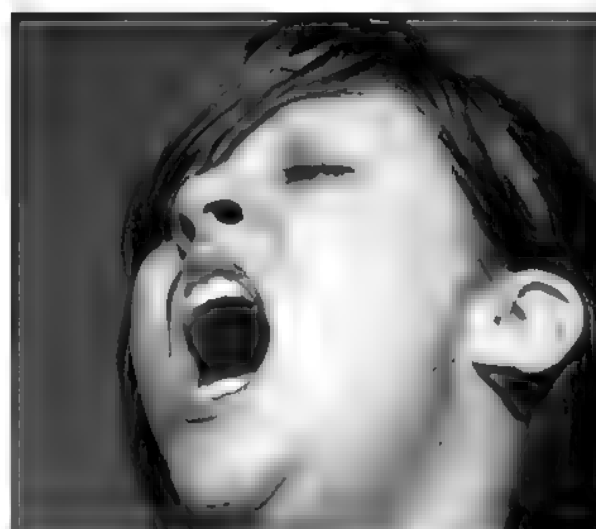
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Hacking the ballot

What do you get when you mix an ex-president with SU hacks and student activists? A really long conversation.

FEATURE, PAGE 13



Going downtown

As always, *The Vagina Monologues* hope to inform audiences about the everyday violence women experience.

A&E, PAGE 24

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

THE VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) DEALS WITH CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES THAT ARE ACADEMIC IN NATURE, INCLUDING THINGS LIKE TEACHING QUALITY, UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS, AND TEXTBOOK COSTS.

STEVEN DOLLANSKY



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL) WILL BE TO... MORE EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE THE STUDENT BODY IN A BROADER DEFINITION OF ADVOCACY.

This year provides tremendous opportunities for change to the post-secondary education system. With the possibility of elections at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels, I will ensure post-secondary education is a priority. We must do more to engage the student body, making our voice heard.

We must take a broader approach to advocacy. Across the city, rent continues to rise as vacancy rates fall. The rapidly increasing cost of living, along with above average tuition levels, is crippling undergraduates. Housing must become an important issue to the Students' Union as we continue to lobby for increased government

funding, reduced tuition and reform to the student loan program.

As VP External I will:

Work with the city to establish affordable housing projects for students;

Lobby to change power of taxation legislation on university residences;

Increase awareness of advocacy issues and events, by more effectively utilizing resources such as the SU webpage and the screen on SUB stage;

Provide more incentives for students to attend new events;

Advocate for increased funding to improve undergraduate education;

Advocate for a fully funded tuition rollback;
Lobby to remove parental contribution requirements from the student loan program.

SOUNDWAVE



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL) WILL BE TO....IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND ALBERTA GOVERNMENT FOR GREATER ENERCON CONSERVATION.

[From the Datatracks of Megatron, Decepticon Leader]

Soundwave has always made energon his primary focus. Now that he is running for VP External, I am certain that he will advocate for greater sustainability practices and energon conservation at the University, the province and throughout the world. Logical, this may seem, as these precious resources are borrowed from a future Earth conquered by Decepticons. In addition, he would like to uphold strong communications with lobbying groups to

make the student agenda a priority item. Lastly, Soundwave, like many intelligent specimens, seeks to remove unreasonable fees. I speak of CAUS fees, which are paid for through the mandatory SU fees. CAUS is a provincial lobbying group, one that Soundwave could easily replicate on his own terms.

Soundwave's credentials are impeccable for a position in student governance. As the head communications officer of the Decepticons, Soundwave was a key member in tactical ops and espionage. His acute internal scanners and advanced audio sensors allow him to detect even the most inaudible conversations... especially those uttering post secondary reform. As such, Soundwave would be an invaluable asset to any advocacy driven organization.

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

THE VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) DEALS WITH CONCERNS AND INITIATIVES THAT ARE ACADEMIC IN NATURE, INCLUDING THINGS LIKE TEACHING QUALITY, UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS, AND TEXTBOOK COSTS.

BOBBY SAMUEL



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) WILL BE TO...ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TEACHING

During my time as the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (U.A.S.U.S.) President, I gained experience and passion for advocating student issues to the faculty administration. My greatest achievement was creating the Undergraduate Advisory Committee, a committee that provides direction for the Faculty of Science's undergraduate experience. However, the issues I worked on at the Faculty have a base in the entire University and that is what I want to change.

Our university education should inspire us to greater achievements in our fields while preparing us for the world beyond these halls. To achieve this, I want to:

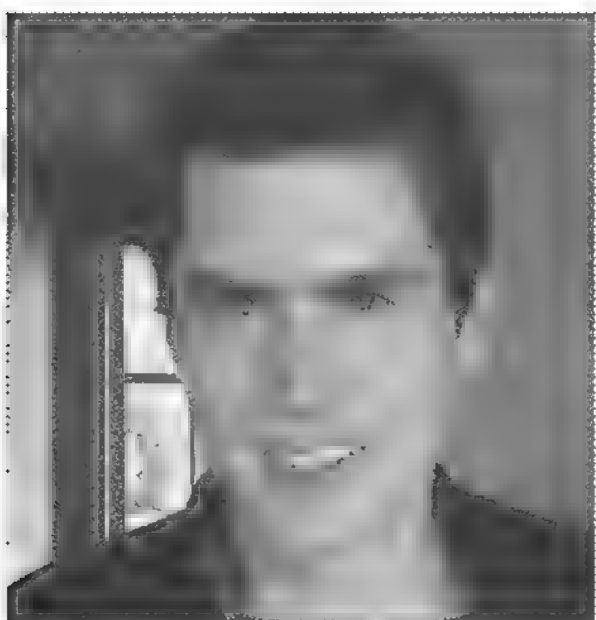
Improve Teaching by establishing a minimum standard of 4/5 on all student evaluations. Instructors will receive penalties for not meeting this and rewards for achieving them.

Enhance Technology by offering streaming and downloadable lectures over the internet.

Reward Involvement by giving academic credit to students in student groups through the Community Service Learning (CSL) program.

More Bursaries by creating a better distribution between scholarships and bursaries. I will create a policy that determines a ratio between the amount of scholarships and bursaries.

BRYANT LUKES



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) WILL BE TO... PUSH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION AT THE LEVEL OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS EVERYWHERE.

As VP Academic I will advocate students' needs of an academic nature. This may include advice to students that will help ensure their academic success. Also, I want to insert new light bulbs across campus that last ten times as long. And I want to empower students to pressure industry to make more efficient products in the marketplace and anything I can do to make the University experience more fun. I support the U-PASS because people should take buses and trains over cars and planes. I am

opposed to Coke being on campus because they harm people's health. I believe in looking at online sources for students to give feedback on Professors. Ideally we could do something through WEBCT or Beartracks/Bearscat. With a result, a purpose and a massive action plan we can do anything. I believe that there are tools out there which students should be directed towards that will make learning easier. Often I hear that University teaches you how to learn. I don't know about you but I haven't taken How to Learn 101 yet. I recommend every student having difficulty reading consult the How to Study series by Ron Fry.



VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

THE VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE STUDENTS’ UNION’S MORE THAN \$9,100,000 BUDGET.

JESSE HAHN



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE) WILL BE TO... ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND PROFITABLE PRACTICES, WHILE ENCOURAGING EFFICIENT OPERATION OF SU BUSINESSES.

I recognize that we share one of the most respected and talented student bodies in the country and I would like to take this opportunity to get up off my ass and set in motion a design for a prosperous and sustainable campus.

My name is Jesse Hahn and as Vice President Operations and Finance, I would:

- Introduce proven environmental strategies that will integrate efficiency into all Student Union run operations
- Cultivate successful, but responsible, financial practices while

expanding profitable businesses and restructuring unprofitable ones

- Demonstrate the full potential of all student groups and foster relationships within the community by taking on a revenue-generating advocacy role

But my ambitions do not end there. I believe that there is more to be learned from the university experience and I will work closely with the executive committee to ensure each student gets the most out of the education they pay for.

As a friend I am open to any questions, comments and suggestions you may have so please feel free to contact me by email or stop me in the hall. Please remember to vote.

EAMONN GAMBLE



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE) WILL BE TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON STUDENT FEES BY INCREASING BUSINESS PROFITABILITY AND REDUCING WASTED RESOURCES.

My name is Eamonn Gamble and I am running for Vice President Operations and Finance. I am a Finance Honors major, and have served as a councilor on the Students’ Union for the past year. During my tenure, I have also been a member of the Budget and Finance, and Audit committees.

We are in a position this upcoming academic year to expand the profitability of our more successful businesses and cut our losses on some of the more notorious “losers” on campus, and be able to reduce our student

fees if successful. If we can decrease reliance on student fees, we will be able to lobby for tuition decreases more effectively because of our own actions. Also if at any time in the future we are no longer able to collect fees, the businesses of the SU can fund the services we currently provide.

As VP Operations & Finance, I will:

- Reduce reliance on student fees by increasing business profitability
- Work towards eliminating wasted resources within the SU
- Cut losses on Powerplant operations, thereby creating more student space in the middle of campus
- Start long-term plan for expansion of SUB



VICE STUDENT LIFE

THE VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL NON-ACADEMIC ASPECTS OF STUDENT LIFE, FROM WORKING WITH RESIDENCES TO PLANNING EVENTS LIKE WEEK OF WELCOME.

CHRIS LE



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT-LIFE) WILL BE TO...SUPPORT INITIATIVES FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCATE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND STUDENT INPUT REGARDING MANDATORY FEES.

Being a large, research-intensive commuter campus, the University of Alberta can be an impersonal institution that supplies nothing but degrees. I believe that being a university student involves much more than academics, which is why I am running for VP SL.

The VP SL portfolio deals with the campus experience and non-academic issues. Students may feel disconnected from the campus community because of its large population. The best solution for this disconnect is to encourage students to engage in the campus community,

which creates a sense of belonging. I want to provide more support and easier access to resources for student groups to reach out to students.

Recognizing that students are largely commuting and increasingly academic, I want to increase the number of microwaves near study areas that are outside of SUB. Currently, many students bring food from home but need to walk from different buildings to SUB to warm up their food: an inconvenience that detracts from their university experience.

Finally, I want to actively monitor mandatory non-instructional fees. Students should know how their fee money is used. Furthermore, students should have input regarding services that are designed to serve students.

CHUBBY PUFF BALL



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE) WILL BE TO...MAKE SURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE MORE FUN AT UNIVERSITY.

There is a huge disconnect between the candidates in the election – who are all very passionate about what they are doing – and the general campus population, many of whom could not care less about the Student’s Union. My goal is to bring some humor into the election so that a lot of the people who do not pay attention to student politics will take note, and become interested. I

believe it is very important to vote in the elections, especially for the referendums, because it gives the students a united voice and a direct influence in what happens at our university.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE SITS ON THE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THE HIGHEST GOVERNING BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING TUITION, MANAGING UNIVERSITY FINANCES, APPROVING NEW BUILDINGS, AND SETTING THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

ADAM GUINEY



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE TO... ADVOCATE THAT WE EXPAND THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES WE OFFER.

Commitment: to continue advocating that education is a public good and maintain students as the central focus of the University.

Employ Student Values: when championing or supporting programs and projects. Our values are the foundation of our ability to advocate because they provide the framework to guide my stance on particular issues.

Ensure Student's Vision: is incorporated into the University's strategic plan. Our Vision is a hallmark in demonstrating that we have a direction which embodies the values we believe in and are committed to maintaining.

My experience includes: President of MacEwan Students' Association, Member of Edmonton's student financial appeals committee, Academic Council, Councilor, Business Owner, founded an elementary tutoring program and currently involved in www.walkfordarfur.ca.

The Board of Governors is the highest governing body in the University and provides students a direct channel to contribute to both short and long-term directives. I'm interested in working closely with the SU, engaging students on central issues that arise and actively advocating for student interests.

I am also a staunch supporter of the U-Pass!

Questions....Concerns? write me at aguiney@telus.net

Vote Adam Guiney for Board of Governors.

PAUL CHISWELL



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE TO... IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION ON CAMPUS

I believe it is important for the Board of Governors to hear the student message when it comes to the future of the University.

The sole focus of student elections in the past has been tuition. While we should not abandon the fight for affordability, we should also seek to improve the education we receive. The administration raises tuition every year on an ad hoc basis, but fails to deliver on improving the overall education students receive. We are paying more and quality is going down. I will make improving our quality of education my primary concern.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the overall strategic direction of the institution, and I will work to put the undergraduate experience front and centre. The University needs to develop and implement a strategy to improve the quality of undergraduate education. We should be committed to making the U of A the top university in the country: first in undergraduate education as well as first in research.

I believe the Board of Governors needs to hear this message. If you care about the quality of your education, vote Paul Chiswell to be your Board of Governors Representative.

PREM ERUVBETINE



IF ELECTED, MY TOP PRIORITY AS THE UNDERGRADUATE BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE TO... ACTIVELY COLLABORATE WITH STUDENTS ENSURING THAT THEIR CONCERNS ON TUITION, RESIDENCES AND LEARNING-QUALITY ARE ADDRESSED.

The BoG rep is an avenue in which students can directly affect the future of their University. Through this position, I wish to represent your interests in matters relating to tuition, residences, accessibility, learning-quality, building planning and the future of our University. As an International Student, I will be able to bring diversity to BoG, and with your help, truly represent everyone.

Examining the recent increase in residence rates will help deter future attempts to the same end. In my opinion, this increase could have been avoided by proper planning and I strongly believe that students shouldn't have borne the costs.

Also, since BoG makes very important decisions, students must have a strong voice advocating for what they want. Improved communication between students and their elected reps is thus essential; I will always be accessible to all students.

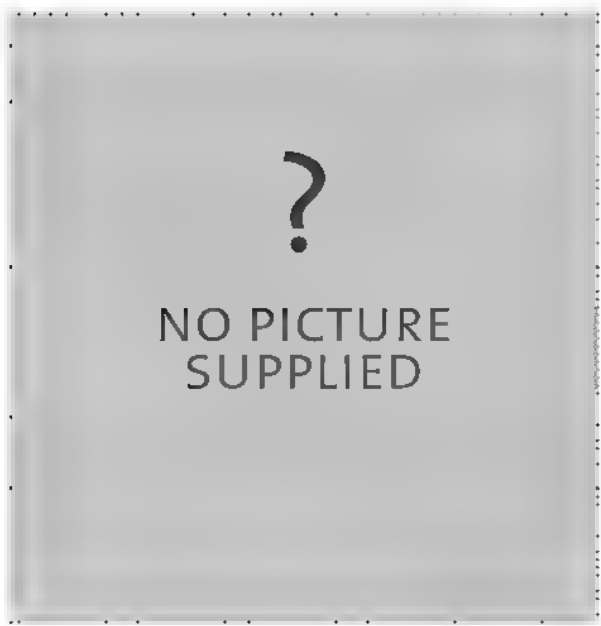
I will continue to fight for a lower student-to-teacher ratio as well as reduced tuition. Also, to accommodate for an ever-growing and evolving campus, proper planning of new buildings that benefit students (e.g. a better VanVliet, more residences...) has to be done to increase student space.

As BoG rep, these will be my goals.

Aluta Continua, Victoria asserta.

UPASS REFERENDUM

YES



The Universal Transit Pass will allow University of Alberta students unlimited access to regular transit services in Edmonton, St Albert, and Strathcona County. The UPass has been a student driven initiative since the first referendum in 2004. This kicked negotiations into high gear and the Students' Union has been lobbying Edmonton, Strathcona County and St Albert Transit since that time to negotiate the price down from \$120/term to the current \$75.

\$75/term is one of the most affordable passes in the country. It equals \$18.75/month - equivalent to one round trip per week. So, if you buy groceries, park and ride to a hockey game, or want to travel off campus during your day, you've used the UPass.

Additionally, Edmonton Transit is investing \$1.7 million dollars into improved transit service. It has been shown in other jurisdictions the addition of the UPass tailors service to students' needs. With a larger buying power we will have a greater ability to command service that

fits our needs with later transit service at night, and greater service during our high demand times.

Students have control of the fee and the assessment of service. If you approve this fee a UPass assessment committee will be set up with the participating municipalities, the University and students where service levels will be assessed and students will decide if the UPass is meeting student needs. The UPass price can only increase by the consumer price index, any more and the price adjustment must go back to students in a referendum.

The UPass was created by students, if the service or price does not meet student standards we can end the contract. For more information, visit www.upassyes.ca.

On March 7 & 8, Vote UPass YES.

COCA-COLA PLEBISCITE

YES



THE UNIVERSITY, THE SU, AND COKE CURRENTLY HAVE A THREE WAY SINGLE SOURCE COLD BEVERAGE AGREEMENT ON CAMPUS, WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE 1998.

Due to declining vending sales, Coke products have not met their sales quota. As a result, the remaining two years of the contract will continue but Coke will not fund students or the SU.

The SU now has the option of signing a new deal with Coke and the University which would continue the Single Source Cold Beverage Agreement.

SAYING YES TO THE PROPOSED CONTRACT WOULD:

1. Give \$524,377 every year directly to students through scholarships, bursaries and services.
2. Require that the contract would be open for viewing by any undergraduate student.
3. NOT force anyone to drink Coke. You can bring your own beverage, go to Mac's, or drink from a fountain.

SAYING NO TO THE PROPOSED DEAL WOULD:

1. NOT eliminate Coke from campus. The University would still sign the deal without the SU, keeping Coke on campus but providing absolutely NO benefits to students
2. NOT eliminate Coke from SUB. Many vendors would continue to sell it.
3. Maintain Coke's monopoly on campus without financial benefits for students.

The "ethical issues" surrounding Coke.

The "no" side will attempt to focus the campaign around the issue of ethics. The rhetoric of the "no" campaign is both alarmist and sensational. For the other side of the story visit www.cokefacts.com.

Stick to the Issue

Much of the campaign against Coke is simply anti corporate rhetoric that is irrelevant to the question of how students' interests are best served, because removing Coke from Campus is not an option.

NO



THREE REASONS TO VOTE NO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S COKE EXCLUSIVITY CONTRACT:

As students and consumers we have a social responsibility and the right to choose. However, Coca Cola Bottling Ltd. and its contractors have:

1. Engaged in environmental and human rights abuses, and unethical labour practices in countries such as Sudan, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, and India. These cases are documented and condemned internationally.
2. Attempted to buy students' choices through scholarships. The amount invested, however, doesn't compare to the exponentially larger profits they make from students' money through the exclusivity contract.

3. Denied choice to students of the University by not allowing the presence of any alternative. Ethical products like Earth Water are not allowed on campus due to this contract.

REMEMBER: The Students' Union exists to represent students, not corporations. Make your voice heard.

Vote NO to the Coke exclusivity contract. Support an ethical and democratic University.

vute
www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS' UNION
ELECTIONS 2007
MARCH 7TH 8TH**



TALKING DIRTY *The Vagina Monologues* hope to combat violence and war.

The Vagina Monologues gets lippy with violence

The Vagina Monologues

Directed by Bo Tarasenko
Produced by Medical Students For Choice
Thursday, 8 March at 7:30pm
Bernard Snell Hall, U of A Hospital

ELLIOT KERR
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When asked about the controversy surrounding *The Vagina Monologues* and its misandrist criticisms, director Bo Tarasenko laughs. "You know, for the longest time, I considered myself a misogynist," he admits.

According to Tarasenko, what's important about *The Vagina Monologues* isn't the controversy or the gender side-taking. Instead, it's about telling women's personal stories, where each monologue is just one experience. It's not about the playwright shaping a production according to his/her perspective, but rather showing how things are for everyone and illustrating the way things ought to be.

The 1996 play by Eve Ensler is made up of more than a dozen monologues relating some of the varied experiences of women and their vaginas. The tales range from sweet stories of self-discovery to humorous rants about tampons, and even to brutal encounters with both men and women. This production also includes three new monologues written by Ensler

in 2007, which focus on the violence committed against women.

"It's pretty heavy subject matter," says Tarasenko. "I was lucky to find these women to work with. They are all so active, passionate and knowledgeable. It really is amazing.

"Violence against women is a huge problem in our society and around the world."

KIM DARY

"We tried to include as many people as possible," Tarasenko continues. "Basically, we just put out a casting call: 'All vaginas welcome!' And although some of the women who responded had limited drama experience, we never saw it as a problem. Our first rehearsal, all of us sat around talking about vaginas and periods, telling our own stories, and before we knew it, everyone had become best friends. After that, there's been no bad days, even when exploring the most difficult subject matter."

The performance is a part of V-Day, an international movement to end violence against women and girls, now in its ninth year. Events are organized independently by women and men in their own communities, and occur annually between Valentine's

Day and International Women's Day (8 March). This year's event is spearheaded by members of Medical Students For Choice.

"Each year, there's a theme for V-Day," organizer Kim Dary explains. "Our theme for V-Day is Reclaiming Peace. It tries to address violence in armed conflict around the globe and how that violence impacts women—or as Eve Ensler puts it, we are saying that if a government supports the use of force, weapons, violence as a method of control and dominance, this gives license to the same kind of behavior at home."

Dary makes it clear that the proceeds from admissions don't go to support the work of Medical Students For Choice. Instead, the group will give half the proceeds to support the ongoing activities of the University of Alberta Women's Centre Collective. The other half will go to Engender Health, an organization of medical professionals that supports sexual health initiatives for women and men in nearly 50 developing countries.

In the end, Dary wants the event to rise above the debate about the play, or even her own group's work for reproductive rights.

"Violence against women is a huge problem in our society and around the world," Dary says. "It takes many forms. That's true no matter what someone's views are about a woman's right to choose."

Cockatoo unruffles its feathers, catches the worm

Cockatoo

With The Secretaries and Gloom Room
Friday, 9 March at 8pm
The Powerplant

LACINA DESJARLAIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A band breakup isn't unlike breaking up with a significant other; both parties end up spiralling into an abyss of loneliness and self-judgement. But for singer-songwriter Robyn Bright of the Edmonton based indie-alternative band Cockatoo, she quickly found a way to cope with her group's disbanding.

After the original Cockatoo broke up in 2005 due to conflicts, which may have been related to getting caught up in industry hype, Bright decided to regroup. She recruited drummer Alan Levesque of Voice Industry and bassist Rod Wolfe, formerly a part of the band Skinny Puppy.

"I was really scared to call them and ask them to be in the band," Bright says. "After the first Cockatoo fell apart, I really just thought about giving up and I just realized that if I couldn't ask people who are better than me to play with me then I really should just give it up. If I don't believe enough in the music, then I shouldn't be doing it."

Luckily, though, Bright didn't quit, and now it seems her phone calls have paid off, for the new Cockatoo seems to be getting along better than ever.



"It just wasn't the right fit; it's like having the wrong boyfriend," says Bright of her former group with a note of regret in her voice. "The band mates I have now are sort of the missing part of Cockatoo. Now there's a real balance in the group. When you have balance in a group then the songwriting comes from that rather than any ego."

Although Cockatoo is easily described as a well-oiled collective, articulating the band's often brooding sound is almost impossible. However,

Bright maintains that Cockatoo definitely isn't goth or anything like Evanescence.

"I'm not really worried anymore about being compared with [Evanescence]," Bright says. "At a couple shows people who said they like Evanescence said they liked our music. That's okay; people just use what they like to reference us. I mean, I personally don't like Evanescence but people like what they like. For years I was really worried about stuff like

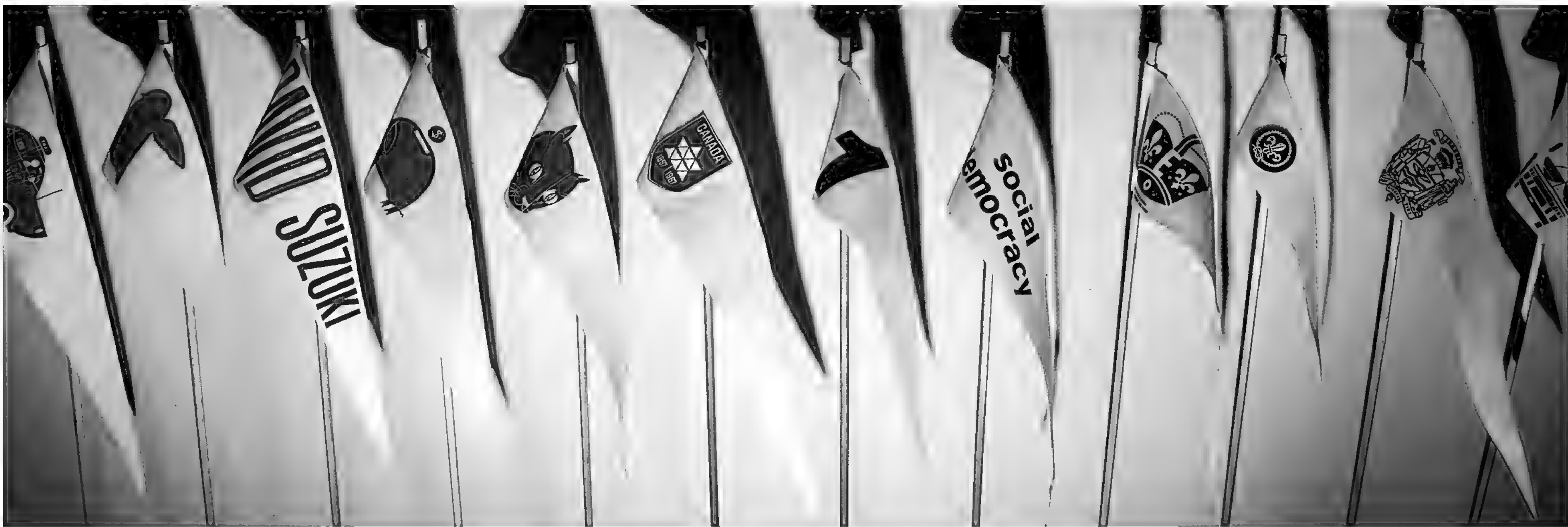
that, but I realized that people listen to that and that's what they like—and if they like me that's great."

It seems that people disliking the band won't be something Cockatoo will have to face anytime soon, as they are rapidly building a fan base both in Canada (they're slated to play at a number of local venues) and the UK.

Although Bright's excited about where Cockatoo's music is taking them, she assures us that the band is working hard to achieve their goals,

which include playing large venues for sold-out crowds. For now, though, she says that they're focusing on accomplishing smaller aspirations and having a good time doing what they love.

"We really believe in the music and we really do want to get in there," Bright says. "We really like to practice, but really we just play music because it makes us happy—although I would love to actually go and open for a band like The Cure or something."



MIKEOTTO

I CARE ABOUT FELT PENNANTS Local artist Raymond Biesinger illustrates how the complex world isn't always the most interesting. Sometimes, originality finds its roots in the communities we grow up in.

Exhibit cheers on the everyday things we ignore

Pep Rally: 36 Felt Pennants About Things You Can Care About

By Raymond Biesinger
Runs 5 March–1 April
Cafe Mosaics

TYSON DURST
Arts & Entertainment Writer

What do engagements, public transit, squirrels and Stephen Lewis all have in common? According to local artist and professional illustrator Raymond Biesinger, they're just some of the things and people that interest him and deserve some recognition.

About Things You Can Care About features artwork silkscreened onto triangular felt pennants, described by

the artist as being rooted in minimalism and contrast. In fact, one of the pennants on display celebrates his favoured visual mode in text form, with the word “contrast” spelled out, appropriately. Like many artists, the inspiration for the pennant project came from observing real life.

“It came out of one too many trips to antique fairs and shops that had pennants and badges promoting things that were already being celebrated on a massive scale, like Disneyland and professional sports teams,” Biesinger explains. “My intention is to focus on things that were more personal and important to me, things that I feel should be celebrated *en masse* but aren't.

“I didn't have a rich background, so

I was quick to learn to make do with what I had available,” Biesinger continues. “And in a complex world where we can do almost anything with digital technology in the fields of art or music, modern printing techniques, digital photography and all that—especially in the West where our resources are nearly limitless—it's often that the most original or interesting thing to do is to accept limitations. That governs how I've lived, the bands I've been in and my approach to making images. Likewise, minimalism, efficiency, environmentalism—I see these things as being related.”

In Biesinger's exhibit, the written word is sometimes used to replace an image that one might normally expect to see, as in the case of two pennants

that feature the names in bold text of well known Canadian scientist and environmentalist David Suzuki, and Canadian diplomat Stephen Lewis.

“I tend to avoid portraiture like the plague,” Biesinger says. “I don't think that the human face actually tells people all that much. I think faces just tell you how old someone is. I know that people always say that creases in someone's face reflect life experiences, but with some exceptions, most of it is conjecture. Their names reveal as much about what they represent as if it was a portrait.”

Having done illustration work for a variety of major publications, such as the *Globe and Mail* and the *New York Times*, it wouldn't be surprising for such an artist to seek out a larger urban

centre for his exhibit, but Biesinger is happy to call Edmonton home.

“I've found that in magazine and newspaper work the common notion that you have to move out to Toronto or Montréal or New York to get the big jobs isn't really true,” Biesinger says. “More than half of my assignments come from the United States right now; less than ten per cent from Alberta. And growing up and living here, I love the city and a lot of the spontaneity that comes with knowing the people that live here. You know, running into them along Whyte Avenue, seeing them for the first time in a few days or a decade. I feel a strong community here and I think that the world would be a bit better off if real communities were more prevalent.”

gateway literary contest

categories:

- 1 Short Fiction (under 1500 words)
- 2 Really Short Fiction (under 150 words)
- 3 Haiku
- 4 Sonnet
- 5 Limerick
- 6 Photography

* Deadline Extended to Sunday 11 March at 6pm

Have you always wanted to see your ramblings published on newsprint? Twelve thousand pieces of newsprint? Well, friends, you're in luck—the *Gateway* has a circulation of 12 000, is totally printed on newsprint and wants to publish your writing.

This contest is open to any U of A student who can string a sentence together or snap a picture, and who isn't currently a *Gateway* volunteer. Winners will have their writing published, and we'll even throw in some fantastic prizes.

Entries will be judged on creativity and style. Submissions must be original, cannot have been published previously, and will not be considered if they are hateful in nature. Submit your entries to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca or bring them to 3-04 SUB by 4 March, 2007. Contestants may only enter once per category. Please include your name, program and year, and e-mail address. Unfortunately, entries will not be returned.

THE GATEWAY

Cracking down on crime, one fist fight at a time

New Xbox 360 game swaps game missions and levels for a free world—that is, one filled with unruly gangs and awesome stunts

Crackdown

Xbox 360
Realtime Worlds
Microsoft Game Studios
Rated M for Mature
On sale now

RYAN HEISE
Online Coordinator

If I have one excuse as to why I didn't accomplish nearly enough homework over Reading Week, it's because I was sick for a great deal of it. However, rather than attempt any semblance of productivity in my weakened state, I instead opted to jump between skyscrapers, toss drug dealers into rivers and occasionally kick innocent bystanders clear through their cars. All in all, it was a pretty good week.

Crackdown is the latest open-world sandbox game to grace the Xbox 360. Akin to the *Grand Theft Auto* series, *Crackdown* drops players into a sprawling futuristic urban environment.

But unlike *GTA*, you take control of a genetically engineered super-cop and are tasked with cleaning up the crime-riddled city by any means necessary. Also, unlike many of its predecessors, *Crackdown* is as addictive as the drug found in its name.

Rather than simply forcing players to progress through the game via the completion of assigned missions, the game emphasizes vast amounts of independent exploration and very non-linear game play. The city is divided into three sections, each ruled by a different gang. Every gang has a unique set of leaders that you need to take down to liberate the city, but how, when and in what order is left completely up to the player.

This is definitely for the best, as *Crackdown* introduces a large role-playing feature that forces players to increase their skills before barging into a gang's headquarters. This is accomplished in a few ways: defeating your foes either via firearms or

fisticuffs, performing exemplary driving maneuvers or collecting "Agility Orbs" that are peppered throughout the city's skyline.

Levelling up your character also constantly increases the fun factor of the game. As you increase your strength, you'll be able to lift heavier objects to toss around at enemies. The point when you can pick up a car—occupants and all—and hurl it at a pack of gang members is oddly satisfying.

But what players will spend the most time doing is tracking down the "Agility Orbs" that increase their running speed or determine how far and high they can jump. When you can clear a 100-foot gap with no trepidation not only makes traversing the city easy, but often induces fits of glee as your tiny on-screen persona hurdles through the air.

Crackdown's main draw, however, rests in just how open it is. Want to get onto the roof of a 20-story



building and jump between its neighbours? Go for it. Want to steal a truck and drive straight into the mountains? Godspeed. Want to screw around for hours just exploring every nook and cranny of the local refinery? Fine. That paper isn't due for two days anyways.

While the story portion of *Crackdown* won't take most gamers a long time to complete, the openness of the city and the wealth of achievements to accomplish will keep them jumping between buildings and driving cars off bridges for hours after the game is over.

Lighting in his eyes

Poor Harry. He's standing all alone in the rain on the Quidditch pitch, shivering and yearning for warmth. But if you look closely, he's giving you sex eyes. He wants you to provide him with warmth.

Gateway A&E is kind of like Harry, sitting all alone up in 3-04 SUB, using provocative entertainment articles to lure you in. So please, please come and make the rain stop.



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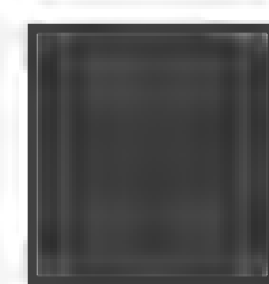


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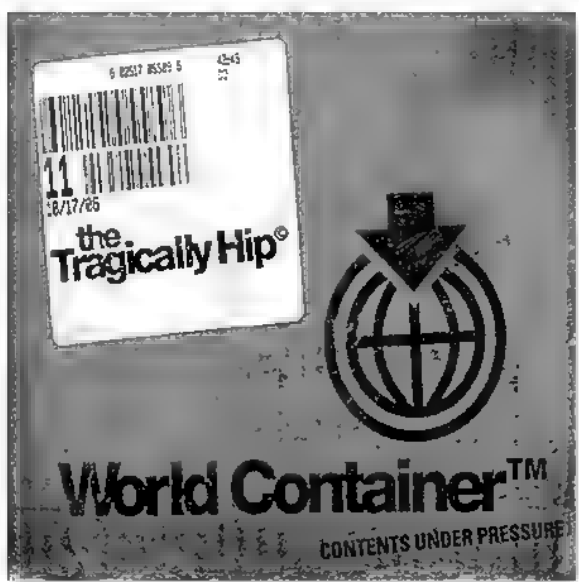
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The Tragically Hip

World Container
Universal Music
www.thehip.com

KRYSTINA SULATYCKI
Photo Editor

A few things have changed since the Hip's early days. While they still have their signature guitar base, the instrumental focus has now shifted: what you get from the new Hip, as heard on their latest album, *World Container*, is a mix of their traditional melancholy flavour with a new, upbeat sound.

The addition of piano gives a slight musical-theatre feel to songs such as "Pretend" and "World Container." Whether you consider this to be a step in the right direction or not, what will really make you stroke your thinking beard is that the piano is written in and played as a guitar. Guitar! An instrument like the piano has so much

potential when combined with the unique melodies that the Hip produces. Really, it seems a waste to use it as they do.

That said, the Hip's departure from their solemn style hasn't been a complete failure. They continue to find new ways of putting together dynamic homophonic tunes with rhythmic and melodic interest in the underlay. "Family Band" doesn't disappoint, and "The Kids Don't Get It" provides some colourful flavours. While the slightly eclectic mixture might cause new fans to stray away, *World Container* is a delight for the old crew of Hip fans who want something fresh to feast on.



Fall Out Boy

Infinity On High
Island Records
www.falloutboyrock.com

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

when it comes to a good turn of phrase. With song titles like "The Carpel Tunnel of Love" and "I'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I'm Always Trying to Get You Off (Me + You)," Fall Out Boy's latest contribution, *Infinity on High*, charms even before you can unwrap the cellophane.

As for the music itself, regardless of their promises of infinity, nothing lasts for long on the new album. Tracks like "Thriller" and "The (After) Life of the Party" tend to undulate; as heavy guitars and snappy drums fall away, Patrick Stump's vocals lead the songs in a more carefully melodic direction, only to be swept back into another round of rock bravado. From the simple addition of some horns,

strings or handclaps, to the more unusual choice of letting rapper Jay-Z introduce the album, *Infinity on High* never gets comfortable—or boring. They even throw in a reinterpretation of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." Despite the various embellishments, the album still manages to tie itself together in a way that guarantees head bobbing and shoulder shimmying.

Stump's vocals are verbose at times, but it's forgivable only because the lyrics are so fun. Pete Wentz, the main lyricist for the band, takes aim at everything from scenesters to Fall Out Boy itself, assuring listeners, "I could write it better than you ever felt it." Going by *Infinity on High*, he's probably right.



YOU, YOU'RE A WALL OF SOUND Toronto instrumentalist septet Do Make Say Think blew brains and eardrums as they launched their new album, *You, You're A History In Rust*, to an enraptured audience at the Starlite Room last Friday.

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Bears falter again on National stage

For the second-straight year, Alberta come out flat on CIS volleyball's biggest stage and are left disappointed at the colour of the medals around their necks

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

The Achilles heel for the Golden Bears volleyball team in 2007 ended up being the Winnipeg Wesmen. Eight days after beating Alberta in the bronze medal game of the Canada West play-offs, Winnipeg beat the Bears again in the gold medal game of the CIS Finals on Sunday to capture their first National Championship since 1998. It was the second year in a row that Alberta had to watch another team celebrate on the court at McMaster.

"The guys are still looking sad; they're a bit of a somber group now. They know they had an opportunity, and they're going to be disappointed about this for a while," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said. "I think in a few days they'll reflect back and not be completely satisfied, but they can sure be proud of what they did."

Alberta came out strong by winning the first set, but the momentum shifted towards Winnipeg who went on to win the second and third sets easily. Facing elimination, Alberta rebounded in the fourth set to tie the match. But, in the fifth and deciding set, Winnipeg led throughout and won 15-10 to claim their tenth National Championship.

For Alberta, who beat Dalhousie and Trinity Western to make the final, this weekend brought redemption after being upset twice on their home court in the Canada West Final Four.

"I thought this weekend we responded really well based on what

happened [at the Final Four], and I told them that we showed a lot of heart to come back, and we played some good volleyball," Danyluk said of his team. "Winnipeg did some things practically that worked for them, and they were similar to last weekend; we just didn't adjust well enough through the whole match."

"The guys are still looking sad; they're a bit of a somber group now. They know they had an opportunity, and they're going to be disappointed about this for a while."

**TERRY DANYLUK,
BEARS VOLLEYBALL COACH**

Danyluk said that his team was drained by the tough, five-set battle against TWU Saturday night, which might have given them a disadvantage in the gold medal game. Alberta finished their game against TWU at 11pm the previous night, while the Wesmen finished at 7:30pm, giving them some extra time to prepare.

"Going five sets against Trinity was a barnburner, and there were signs [Sunday] of guys being a little bit tired because they weren't executing some of the things that they normally do,"

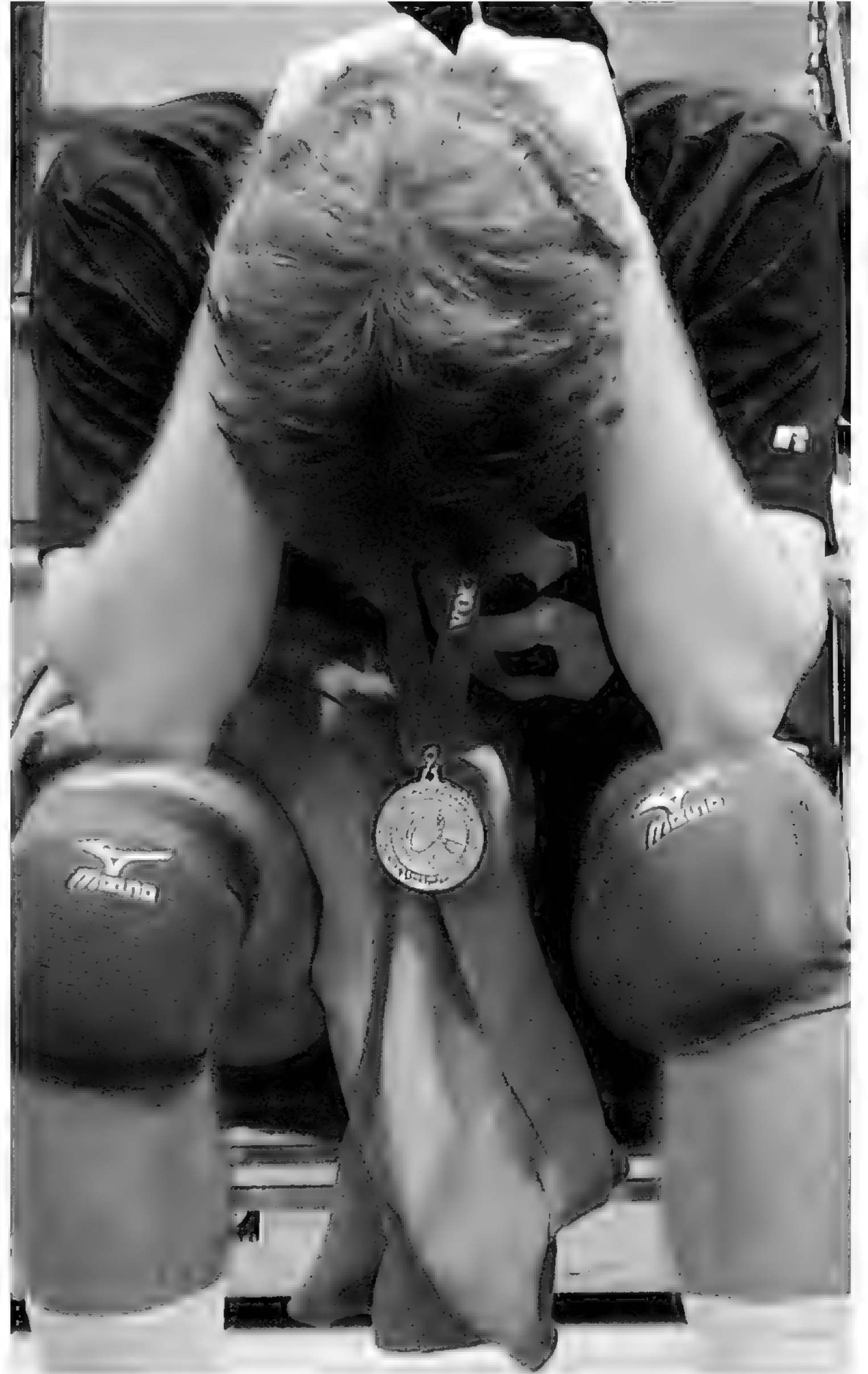
Danyluk explained. "At times like this, you have to allow the energy and adrenaline to carry you. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't."

The one consolation, if such a thing exists in a loss to end the season, is that no one expected Alberta to be in the gold medal game after losing seven players last season, five of whom were starters. The Bears don't see silver as a victory, but perhaps with such a young team, it produces optimism for the future of this club.

"If you were to ask me at the start of the year, I guess we thought we would be able to compete, but I don't think I would have went out on a limb and told you that we would have been in the National Finals," Bears Libero Justin Wong said. "No matter how crappy this feeling is, we do have a lot to be proud of, so we can take some positives out of this situation."

The loss was especially tough on Wong, who won gold with Alberta two years ago, but suffered defeat in the final the past two seasons. Sunday's game was Wong's last as a Golden Bear, as he and middle Derek Proudfoot have exhausted their eligibility.

"I don't know if it's really hit me yet, but it will sometime, and I'll definitely make sure I take it all in," Wong said. "I'll miss being able to compete. It's a privilege to play in this league, and I'll miss the guys on the team. You spend so much time with them every day they become like family, so I'm definitely going to miss that."



ADAM HURAS, THE EYEOPENER (CUP)

LET IT OUT Ben Saxton hangs his head over the medal hanging from his neck.



CHRIS TAIT, THE GAUNTLET

AND THE QUEEN PLAYED ON Tiffany Dodds hoists the rather unimpressive Red River trophy over her head after guiding Alberta to the National Title.

Pandas rewarded for faith in Dodds

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

CALGARY—It's only fitting that third-year outside hitter Tiffany Dodds ended the title match of CIS Championships on Saturday with a kill.

One night earlier, the Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan product limped up the stairs of the Calgary Kinesiology building, her muscles aching from the 32 kills, seven blocks and seven digs she had in leading the Pandas to victory over the Calgary Dinos in the semi-finals. Her thumb, which she hurt on the second block she made in the game, was wrapped in an ice-pack, but she says the pain didn't set in until after the final whistle. Yet there's no way these minor injuries could keep her from the National Final, where she had 17 more kills on the way to gold.

Last week, Dodds was presented with the Mary Lyons Award, given to the CIS Female Player of the Year. Her ability to set and hit earned her the nod, but there was plenty of competition for the award from Marylène Laplante from Laval and Joanna Niemczewska from Calgary, both of whom had been chosen as player of the year twice before. Dodds was definitely surprised when she heard the announcement.

"I was shocked; I was speechless and shaking. It was an amazing feeling," the 21-year-old says. True to her character, though, she's quick to

share credit with her teammates. "It's my team that helped me get there. It's great to be recognized, but I would not be there without my team."

"She just never fails to amaze me, and she has just gone to a whole new level this year," Pandas coach Laurie Eisler adds. "It's a nice honour for her, but she's got lots of upward left in her; she's just scratching the surface."

What makes her award even more impressive is that this has been a transition year for Dodds. She moved from her role as setter last year to that of an outside hitter this year—a switch that shows her versatility and ability to refine her game.

"It's rare that a player can go from setting to attacking, and not many kids have the ability to set and hit well, but [Tiffany] is a real universal-style player," Eisler says. "She hasn't played middle, although she probably would be able to do it and she could probably play libero. Maybe part of it was playing the game really young so the skill set was there. We probably have had one other player that could have done anything and that was [member of the late '90s Pandas dynasty] Miroslava Pribylova."

"I knew my role both years, and it's not so much that I like one or the other better; it's whatever each individual team needs, and I'll do what I need to do," Dodds adds.

Dodds' humility about her many

accomplishments is unwavering, so it might be left up to her family to brag about what she's accomplished in CIS volleyball. But the award cabinet in the Dodds' basement is getting a little full, as Tiffany's brother Mark has been one of the best men's volleyball players in the country over the past five years.

"Our parents have a little wall downstairs—a 'Mark' wall and a 'Tiffany' wall," she laughs. "At home with other games we're competitive but I don't compare myself to him [in volleyball]. It's not like we compare statistics or anything. He's my big brother and I look up to him because he's done so well with volleyball."

Mark and Tiffany's parents both played volleyball and got their children involved in the sport at a very young age. It also helped that they're both teachers and coaches, so the volleyball lessons came early.

"Since we were babies they've been bringing us to games and throwing us in the coat piles in the corner. Once Mark and I got old enough, we started playing off to the side," Dodds says.

After a dominant weekend performance, Dodds was also selected as tournament MVP. Despite the personal hardware she's going to add to her parents' award wall, it's the National Championship she cherishes.

"Those [personal] awards don't matter as much as this gold medal around the neck," she says.

Leah helps Pandas cope with Bisons to land CanWest gold

First-year centre's breakout with three-point night against Manitoba highlights dominating weekend on the ice for Alberta

JANELLE SLOYCHUK
Sports Writer

For the ninth-consecutive time, the Pandas hockey team had reason to celebrate when the final horn sounded on the Canada West Final. With a pair of shutouts of the Manitoba Bisons, Alberta adds yet another conference banner to the rafters of Clare Drake Arena.

Friday night saw a dominant Pandas squad that outshot Manitoba 37–5, resulting in a 4–0 win, but the Bisons were able to make a better show of it on Saturday, as they were still outshot badly 24–12, but held Alberta to only two goals in a 2–0 loss. Friday night saw conference all-star Holly Terleton add another 60 minutes to her shutout streak—which is up to 214:01—while first-year Dana Vinge was between the pipes on Saturday for her first playoff action.

“Maybe we didn’t finish this weekend—or we didn’t generate a lot of offensive opportunities—but at least [Saturday’s] game was a little more back and forth,” said Bisons head coach Jon Rempel, who was named Canada West Coach of the Year. “We have to generate more scoring chances than we did. [Alberta] doesn’t give you a lot of chances.”

While veterans Lindsay McAlpine and Tarin Podloski—the country’s top-two scorers—were held relatively quiet on the weekend, combining for only three points and one goal, the sweep of the Bisons marked a breakout weekend for first-year centre Leah Copeland, who potted a pair of goals and an assist



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

MAD SCRAMBLE IN FRONT Lindsay McAlpine fights for the puck in front of Manitoba goalie Stacy Corfield during Saturday’s 2–0 Alberta victory.

in Friday’s Alberta victory.

Among those first-year players who proved their value is product of Calgary centre Leah Copeland, who contributed to Friday’s final score against the Bisons with two of her own goals and one assist.

“Copeland is an awesome rookie with a lot of skill,” said McAlpine, who was named Canada West Player of the Year. “She’s quick; she’s a huge asset to our team, and she’s really stepped into

her role on the second line and was a big part of our win [this weekend].”

“I wouldn’t say that I’m taking a lead, I’m playing my role,” Copeland added.

Copeland’s emergence is important for a veteran-laden Alberta squad that loses McAlpine, Taryn Berry and team captain Kaye London after this year.

“We’re going to take a blow,” Copeland said. “We’ll be able to fill

some of those roles though not to the extent of their experience, but we have a lot of strong young players coming up.”

While Copeland stood out for Alberta, it was Manitoba goaltender Stacy Corfield—who made 55 saves over the weekend—who stood on her head for Manitoba. While Corfield was proud of the effort her team put forth, she was disappointed they didn’t adjust sooner to the flow

of the game.

“[The officiating] was little different than what we’re used to,” Corfield said. “They were letting a lot go, but when we picked up on the fact that they weren’t calling as much, we were able to pick it up a little bit and started using it to our advantage.”

While the Bisons fell this weekend, they will join the Pandas as both teams head to Ottawa in two weeks for the CIS Championships.

Trio of blueliners pick up defensive intensity for puck Pandas in playoffs

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

Even when the Pandas hockey squad’s ninth Canada West Championship banner was all but guaranteed, the Manitoba Bisons still couldn’t enter the Alberta zone to try a last ditch effort at stirring up some offence.

By holding the Herd without a goal, the Pandas stretched their shutout streak to 525:59 and haven’t given up a goal since 9 February, when they beat UBC 7–1. Whether the goalie has been Holly Terleton, Danielle Bles or Dana Vinge, the Pandas defensive corps has stood tall and completely shut down the opposition.

“Our defensive unit has been improving the entire year, and they’re peaking right now,” Pandas head coach Howie Draper explained. “I think they’re doing great, and that’s really important for us heading into Nationals.”

There are three defencemen who form a solid core on the Alberta blue-line, and each bring a unique element to the team. Alanna Donahue is a gifted veteran that the Pandas coaching staff thinks has the ability to be the best defenceman in CIS, Trisha McNeill is a hard-working bundle of aggression and Rayanne Reeve is the rookie sensation fresh off the top women’s team in Canada, the Oval Extreme. The trio log big minutes and pitch in offensively, while sticking to defensive coach Judy Diduck’s backend philosophy.

“Make the quick pass, tape to tape and keep things simple,” Diduck said.

“[The simplicity] keeps it consistent.”

Against Manitoba, McNeill was all over the ice, blocking shots, playing physical and directing traffic. Her ear-shattering screams were audible throughout Clare Drake as she kept her teammates focused and responsible.

“Trish probably had her best game of the year [Friday night],” Diduck said. “Her game is simple and hard. She is a great team player and a great communicator.”

“She plays a huge role on the team,” Reeve added of McNeill. “She looks like this little innocent girl, but she plays a game twice her size.”

Reeve has also emerged on the Pandas and done so in a big way. The 19-year-old Calgary product has made the adjustment from the Western Women’s Hockey League quite easily. She leads the conference in points, assists, and plus/minus among defencemen while playing on the first power-play unit with the Big Three—Jenna Barber, Tarin Podloski, and Lindsay McAlpine.

“Having Rayanne on the power play gives us options,” Draper explained. “By moving [Podloski] to the point, it gives us three good shots up high and makes our power play very dangerous.”

“[Reeve is] a great person,” McNeill adds. “She is one of those people you need around because she has so much talent, and she has a great shot.”

While Reeve’s abilities have been a welcome arrival, Donahue has slowly made herself one of the top defencemen on this talented group. The fourth-year Phys Ed and Rec student

attributes her steady growth to having confidence in her own game.

“For me to be successful I just need to stay calm and believe in myself,” Donahue said. “I have really worked hard on my confidence, staying calm and reading the plays.”

“She is one of our most skilled players; she just needs to believe in her ability,” Draper adds. “I think she has a huge impact in any game she plays in, and she has really stepped up her play recently.”

Heading into Nationals, the Pandas are in top form and are among the favourites as they try to repeat as champions and take their sixth title in eight years. With Donahue, Reeve and McNeill watching the backend, Alberta is proving that good things do come in threes.

REARGUARD

Alanna Donahue

A fourth-year from Grand Cache, Alberta, Donahue has two goals, 14 assists and is plus-25.

Rayanne Reeve

A first-year out of Calgary, Reeve is a first-team Canada West all-star this season.

Trisha McNeill

The third-year Edmonton native has one goal and three assists, but is plus-eleven for the season.



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

CLEARs THE CREASE LIKE A SNOWPLOW Rayanne Reeve (18) has been a big part of a Pandas defence that hasn’t allowed a goal in almost a month.

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Diverse platforms mark race for SU President



MICHALMLYNARZ

SHELL GAME On March 7-8, voters will get to decide whether Janz (left), Henry or Lawrence will get to don the shiny SU crown. (Note: no actual crown exists.)

MARIA KOTOVYCH
News Staff

The race for Students' Union President is underway with six candidates this year up for the challenge—three of whom are joke candidates. The three real candidates are: Amanda Henry, current Vice-President (Academic); Michael Janz, current Lister Hall Students' Association President; and Cody Lawrence, Intramurals coordinator with the former Arts Students Association.

1 What is the main thing you would want to accomplish as President?

Amanda Henry: As President, I would like to sort of refocus our affordability and accessibility messaging, because there's a new provincial government and the University has a new vision for a great university. I think we have a really great opportunity to start advocating not only for more affordable education, but to start filling the gaps in quality that the institution has started to see since the cuts in the '90s. I think they're all tied to the education you get here is easier to get because you don't have to carry as much debt—it's more likely that those other things will improve, too.

Michael Janz: As President, the main thing I'd like to accomplish is making sure that the SU has a broader vision than just tuition advocacy. I want to make sure that some of the other portfolios in this organization, such as our businesses and our services and our building, aren't neglected. [Students are] concerned [as to] why the SU for five years [is] running a business that's been losing money almost to the tune of half-a-million dollars, but we haven't seen presidential candidates sort of talking about these issues. We always talk about tuition advocacy, but these [internal issues] are just as important to

our organization as the external issues.

Cody Lawrence: A serious increase in the amount of things that are actually wanted by the students. There's a lot of concern for things like microwaves and student spaces, student spaces just to study in, access to materials needed—photocopiers, wireless Internet, all that kind of thing—and for some reason, these things have been backbenched for the last two or three years now, much to the frustration to a lot of students I've talked to, anyways.

2 What issues would you prioritize when dealing with the Administration and the provincial government?

Henry: The province and the University are listening with different ears. To the University, my main messages would be educational quality—the University needs to be making direct investments into undergraduate education. For instance, making sure that they do hire 500 new professors. The provincial government doesn't have quite the ground-level view of the University, so my priorities to them would be funding university to make it more acceptable for more qualified students and making sure ... that it's designed to improve the experience here, that the provincial government provides it with that in mind.

Janz: I would make sure that the issues we're looking at are, well, that we take sort of a practical approach. I mean, we've been asking for a tuition rollback last year and that hasn't happened. And I think one issue that we need to take on is student loans. We haven't had this as the main focus of our advocacy efforts. So I just want to make sure that we start tackling issues at the SU that are important to students that are more winnable.

Lawrence: I would say, obviously the

most pressing issue is tuition, as usual, and presenting that is a matter of showing what we've done in the past, the cry for it right now, and what we're currently doing to keep up with it.

3 What does the number of joke candidates say about perceptions of the SU?

Henry: I'm actually really glad to see the joke candidates, because it means that more students are getting involved with the SU. A lot of the joke candidates are students who wouldn't normally be involved in the SU election race, so I actually thought it was really positive to see students getting interested.

Janz: I think joke candidates serve a good purpose [in] that they're spreading awareness about the vote, that they're getting students talking about the election. I think it shows that we have to remember that, at the end of the day, this is still student politics, it still can be fun.

Lawrence: It's actually a welcomed change. I like to see that there are people who are taking—I'd say not as much of a comical jest at being President—but definitely trying to get more people involved for sure.

4 How would you work with the different vice-presidents on their portfolios?

Henry: The vice-presidents would be taking their own lead on their portfolios. I think a really important part of the President's job is to make sure that the vision of the Executive as a whole coordinates, but without sort of leading the vice-presidents around by the ear. I would hope ... we can set up a dynamic where they listen when I put my foot down, but that they feel comfortable

pursuing their own visions, because everyone's elected on their own platform, and has their own contribution to give to the organization.

Janz: I think the President's overall responsibility is setting the direction of the organization and I think that's something I'll be able to do very well from my previous experience as President of the Lister Hall Students' Association. I had to be responsible for setting the direction for what we were going to do as an Executive. I think one of the dangers is sometimes for an SU President, if they came from a certain background, they would retain that portfolio too much. The President needs to allow the VPs the flexibility to do what they want with their portfolios.

Lawrence: Well, I've talked to a lot of these guys in the last week or so, and they all have some pretty interesting points concerning their materials and what they've had to say. I think actually everything would run together really smoothly if certain people [whose platforms I've looked at] would get into office.

5 In five minutes or less, write a haiku on why you should be elected.

Henry:
If I'm elected
No poetry will students hear
No haikus. Indeed.

Janz:
Students are shouting
It's time we offered results
Time for new vision.

Lawrence:
Wants go unanswered
You ought to get what you need
Vote Cody for Change.

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Whichever you prefer, the first step is stopping by a Sports meeting, Tuesdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB. You don't have to be a Swedish high jumper, you don't have to have any experience and you don't have to know a thing about university sports. All you need is an interest in writing and the ability to leap one meter into the air and land on your back. Blue and yellow clothing is also a must.

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GATEWAY SPORTS
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RIGHT THURR Jocelyn Blair (2) hammers a kill past Laval's Melanie Savoie. Blair had 12 kills in Saturday's title match.

Balanced Alberta attack snatches gold from Rouge et Or's clutches

PANDAS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Eisler felt they established themselves as a "serve and block" team in their quarter-final matchup against St Mary's, and those words proved true on Saturday as Alberta recorded eight aces—three from Dodds and two each from Blair and Wojtkiw—and eleven team blocks to Laval's four. It was that balance that did in Laval, according to Eisler.

"It was a real collective, even though it looked like we were a two-person team [with Dodds and Blair]—we started that way, but as the season

wore on, our team evolved, and it became very balanced," she said. "If anyone was just going to focus on those two, or one of the two, they were going to pay."

That they won the title at the expense of the defending champs wasn't lost on the Pandas, who also saw their title run as redemption for last season's first-round upset.

"We took the trophy right out of Laval's hands. They won it last year and thought they would win again all year, and we took it from them," Blair said.

"We knew what it felt [to lose] that

quarter-final match, and we never wanted to feel like that again," Roper added.

Marie-Christine Mondor had 20 kills for the Rouge et Or in a losing cause, while two-time CIS Player of the Year Marylène Laplante added 13 kills and 13 digs in her final CIS game.

In the bronze medal game, another two-time CIS Player of the Year, Dino Joanna Niemczewska, ended her career with 15 kills in a straight-set victory over the Trinity Western Spartans. It was Calgary's third-straight bronze medal at Nationals.

THE PEP RALLY

by Paul Owen

Pandas Basketball

With a 81-58 upset of the SFU Clan on Friday night, the hardcourt Pandas booked their tickets to the Rock for this year's Nationals at Memorial University. Kristin Jarock, Michelle Smith, Ashley Wigg and Trish Anss all scored in double digits for Alberta. Much like their divisional final victory over Saskatchewan, a hot start was all the Pandas needed, as they opened with a 23-13 lead and expanded it to 49-27 at the half.

In Saturday's conference final, the roles were reversed on Alberta as the UBC Thunderbirds walked away with

a 88-66 victory and the Canada West banner. Wigg scored 17 points to lead Alberta, but UBC shot .5/8 from the floor and .769 from beyond the arc to down the Pandas. Erica McGuinness led the Thunderbirds with 22 points, seven assists and two steals—three if you count my heart.

Wrestling

The Golden Bears and Pandas returned from the CIS wrestling championships with two silver medals and tenth- and twelfth-place finishes, respectively. Samantha McKay finished fourth in the women's 72kg event, while Jenna Yamashita scored fifth for the Pandas in the 51kg.

On the men's side, both Anthony Kulak and Jarret Wall took home silver medals;

Kulak in the 54kg and Wall in the 72kg. Wall was also named the CIS wrestling Student-Athlete of the Year. It should also be noted that Saskatchewan's Keith Folkerson, the man who beat Wall for gold in the 72kg, doubles as the Graphics Editor of the *Sheaf*. Of course, while our pals to the east could probably kick our ass in a wrestling contest, we here at the Gateway are still the champs in both office badminton and the dance-off.

Fantasy Hockey

Managing Editor Chloé Fedio beat me in fantasy hkey this week. With a 5-4 final, Chloé has established that her goal-tending duo of Martin Brodeur and Kari Lehtonen is better than Marty Turco is to me. As much as I loathe to admit it, if I didn't, I'd never hear the end of it.

Ashton goal sends hockey Bears to CW final

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

The Alberta Golden Bears are off to their ninth-consecutive Canada West final, while the UBC Thunderbirds are heading home believing they should have been able to come out on top.

The T-Birds did everything they possibly could to delay a speedy Bears attack on Friday night and lasted until five minutes into the second period, when Alberta scored three goals in an astounding 44 seconds to spur a 5-1 victory. Saturday, UBC had more jump in their step, but with 6:17 left to play, Bears rookie defenceman Mark Ashton scored the go-ahead goal with a slap-shot that beat Thunderbirds goalie Gerry Festa high on the glove-side and ended UBC's season.

"I thought our guys battled and competed this weekend, and I give them a lot of credit," T-Birds head coach Milan Dragicevic said while forcing back tears. "But penalties killed us all year, and they ended up

biting us in the end."

On Friday night, it was speedsters Dale Mahovsky and Dylan Stanley wreaking havoc, as the duo combined for four points. The T-Birds couldn't contain the Alberta forwards and wound up surrendering 41 shots on Festa and drawing nine penalties.

"We really brought our level up when it mattered," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said of his team's scoring burst. "That has a lot to do with experience and veteran guys who really want to win."

"The swagger [of a winning team] should always be there and be present in all the decisions we make," Bears assistant coach Serge Lajoie added.

On Saturday night, UBC checked the Bears much tighter and was able to neutralize some of the quicker Alberta forwards; however, the Thunderbirds still found themselves shorthanded eleven times, though they didn't allow a goal in ten of them. Still, as the game neared its end, the Alberta forecheck wore down the UBC defencemen, which led to Ashton's game winner. Rookie

forward Jesse Gimblett stole the puck in the UBC end and fed it to Ashton, who pounded it past Festa.

"We are a well-conditioned team, and it just wears a team down when you can establish an up-tempo forecheck," Lajoie said. "I call it the 'White Wave,' and we had it going for the last 14 minutes of tonight's game."

"[UBC] was coming off three games last week and the game [Friday], so we wanted to make them work and make them skate," Bears goaltender Aaron Sorochoan explained. "We don't want to play hockey on a Sunday here, so we worked hard for the win."

The close result of Saturday's contest left the Thunderbirds, who felt they played well enough to force a third game, disappointed in the early end to their season.

"We are not happy or content with the second round," Dragicevic said. "They had puck-luck and we didn't; I thought we played well and deserved to win."

"We did deserve to win; we wanted it more than them," UBC captain Brad



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

STANDING TALL Aaron Sorochoan (30) allowed only two goals this weekend.

Zanon concurred. "[Alberta] just capitalized on their chances."

The Bears will now move on to the CanWest Final for the eleventh consecutive season, where they'll face the

Saskatchewan Huskies for the sixth straight time. Also, the Bears pushed their post-season winning streak to 16 games and haven't lost at home to UBC since 21 November, 1998.



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ART SPIEGELMAN



FORBIDDEN IMAGES

Art Spiegelman is the world renowned author of *MAUS: A Survivor's Tale*, a graphic novel based on his parents' experience as concentration camp survivors. His work earned him a Pulitzer Prize in 1992, and he continues to be on the forefront of political controversy with his recently published article, "Drawing Blood: Outrageous Cartoons and the Art of Outrage," in the June issue of *Harper's*. His article focuses on theories of forbidden images after controversy arose over cartoons of Muhammad printed in several Danish newspapers.

Spiegelman's touring speech discusses the art of "forbidden images" and freedom of speech in our world today. His talk will feature a visual presentation of the images he speaks about.

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2. Ethics:

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1. NOT eliminate Coke from campus. The University would still sign a new contract without the SU, keeping Coke on campus but providing absolutely NO benefits to students.
2. NOT eliminate Coke from SUB. After two years many vendors would continue to sell it.
3. Maintain Coke's current monopoly on campus for the next two years without any financial benefits for students.

Questions Answered: An end to the myths surrounding the Coke deal.

- Q: Is this plebiscite merely a question of money vs.ethics?
A: No. While saying YES will guarantee students money, saying NO will not have any effect on ethics because Coke will remain the exclusive seller on campus.
- Q: The last agreement defaulted because of a consumption quota. Will that happen to the next agreement?
A: No. The new agreement contains no consumption quota.
- Q: Why will saying NO not get rid of Coke?
A: 1) because SUB is still under contract for two years.
2) because the rest of campus is controlled by the University and they will sign the deal.
- Q: Will saying NO rid the world of Global Capitalism?
A: NO!

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AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

Amar and Etnan stood on the rocky edge of the ko' pond, watching the three-eyed fish swimming just under the calm surface. Amar coughed heavily, sucking in a deep breath of the smog-thick air, which burned his throat and caused tears to collect at the edges of his eyes. "Tn's fairy sucks." "I concur," replied Etnan, while wiping the sweat from his forehead. It wasn't yet ten in the morning,

and the temperature had already risen above sixty degrees. The thick cover of aerosol gasses, carbon emissions and bacon grease that surrounded the planet had trapped the sun's heat, keeping everything at a slow simmer, even in December. "I can't believe that in nine short months, we went from a cold-weather city to a neon earth." "If only we had done something when we had the chance, amended Amar. "If only we had elected Bryant Lukes as VP(Academic)! With the position's limitless power, he would have been able to defeat global warming!" "I concur," Etnan replied. "Remember when Lukes promised to throw ice cubes at the sun?" "Yean, he totally would have cooled that motherfucker down." "And then we wouldn't be living in this polluted, dead world." "And that climate-change induced volcano wouldn't have opened up under CAB." "Yean, that was totally weird."

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1			4	8	9			6
7	3						4	
					1	2	9	5
		7	1	2		6		
5			7		3			8
		6		9	5	7		
9	1	4	6					
	2						3	7
8			5	1	2			4

CROSSWORD

The OntarionWord

compiled by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)

The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.thegatewayonline.ca

Across

- Singer Tormé
- Lightening or hot
- Vain one
- Tender
- Fuss
- Exist
- Indonesian islands
- Optimus _____
- Novel
- I don't want to study yet! (2 wds.)
- Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
- Attractive, to Ludacris
- Cheer, in Valencia
- Ivy leaguer
- Court order
- Make parallel
- Aluminium producer
- Race judge, sometimes
- Eye part
- Casted
- Appeared
- God of the woods
- Cake portion
- Send forth
- & 45. Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
- Scrape
- Dog's threat
- Racer's wheels
- Ruminates
- Pomme de _____
- Hay unit
- Let
- City of ill repute
- Computer part
- Makes doilies
- Demon
- School subj.
- Scottish hillside
- Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
- Still procrastinating... (2 wds.)
- Religious war
- Verdi compositions
- Sailor
- Ardent
- Tailor's concern
- Overflows
- _____ Girl Friday
- Snake eyes number
- Match (in cards)

Down

- Church session
- Bad orchard location?
- Casa _____
- Aggravate
- Speak flatulently
- Kosher eatery

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14
15				16				17				18				
19				20				21				22				
23								24			25					
				26				27		28			29	30	31	32
33	34	35					36					37				
38							39					40				
41							42					43				
							44					45				

- Teenager's plight (2 wds.)
- Gold, to Pedro
- Coastal bird
- Play first
- Act without restraint
- Holiday decoration
- Outback animal
- Stimpy's companion
- Desktop features
- Cry of disgust
- Just _____ (2 wds.)
- Straggle

- Actress Downey Jr.
- List constituent
- Wool weight
- Swiss peak
- Meadow
- Hostel
- Linda Lavin sitcom
- Jeopardy
- Runner crafts
- Lock eyes
- Oak product
- Insincere flattery

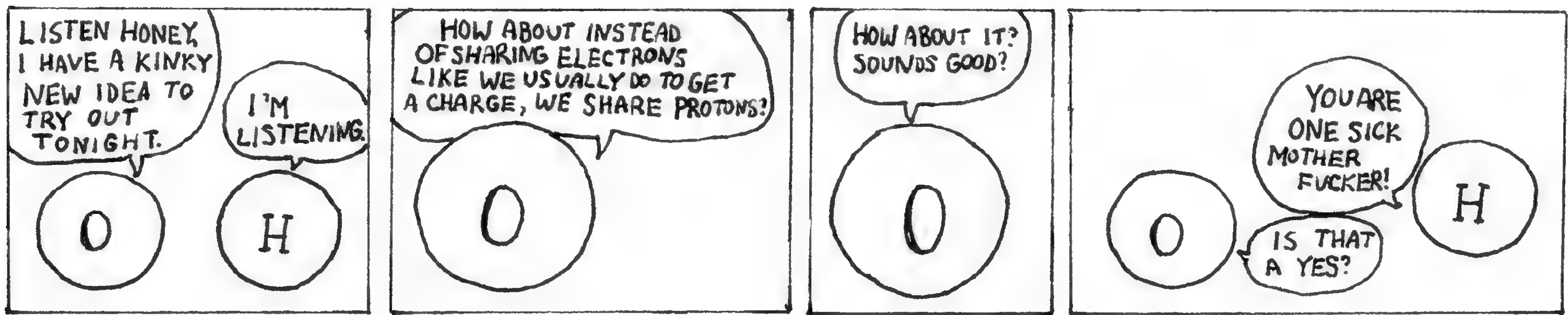
- Construction plank
- Join the army
- Euclidean measure
- Bluenose, for ex.
- Some Casanovas
- Satiric magazine
- Pub's fare
- Geologic treasure
- Order at 6 down
- Moreover
- Philistines
- Sword's cover

- Insignificant
- Prank
- Noble title
- A Supreme
- Canyon sound
- Louts
- Comic pooch
- Apportion
- Tank
- Fury
- Live and let _____
- French month

BITTEN by Robin Sissons



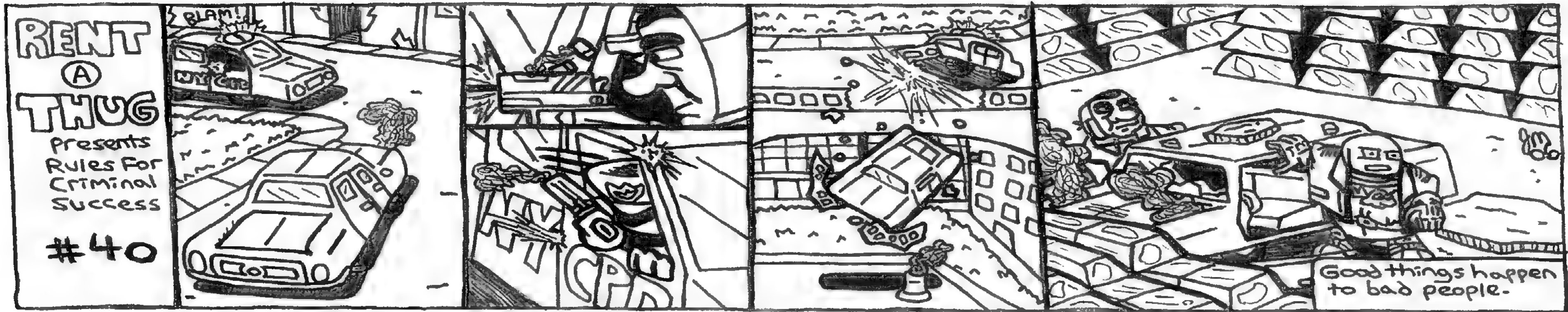
ELEMENT UNIVERSITY by France Fortin



SEXY GEEK by Vishaal Rajani & Ross Lockwood



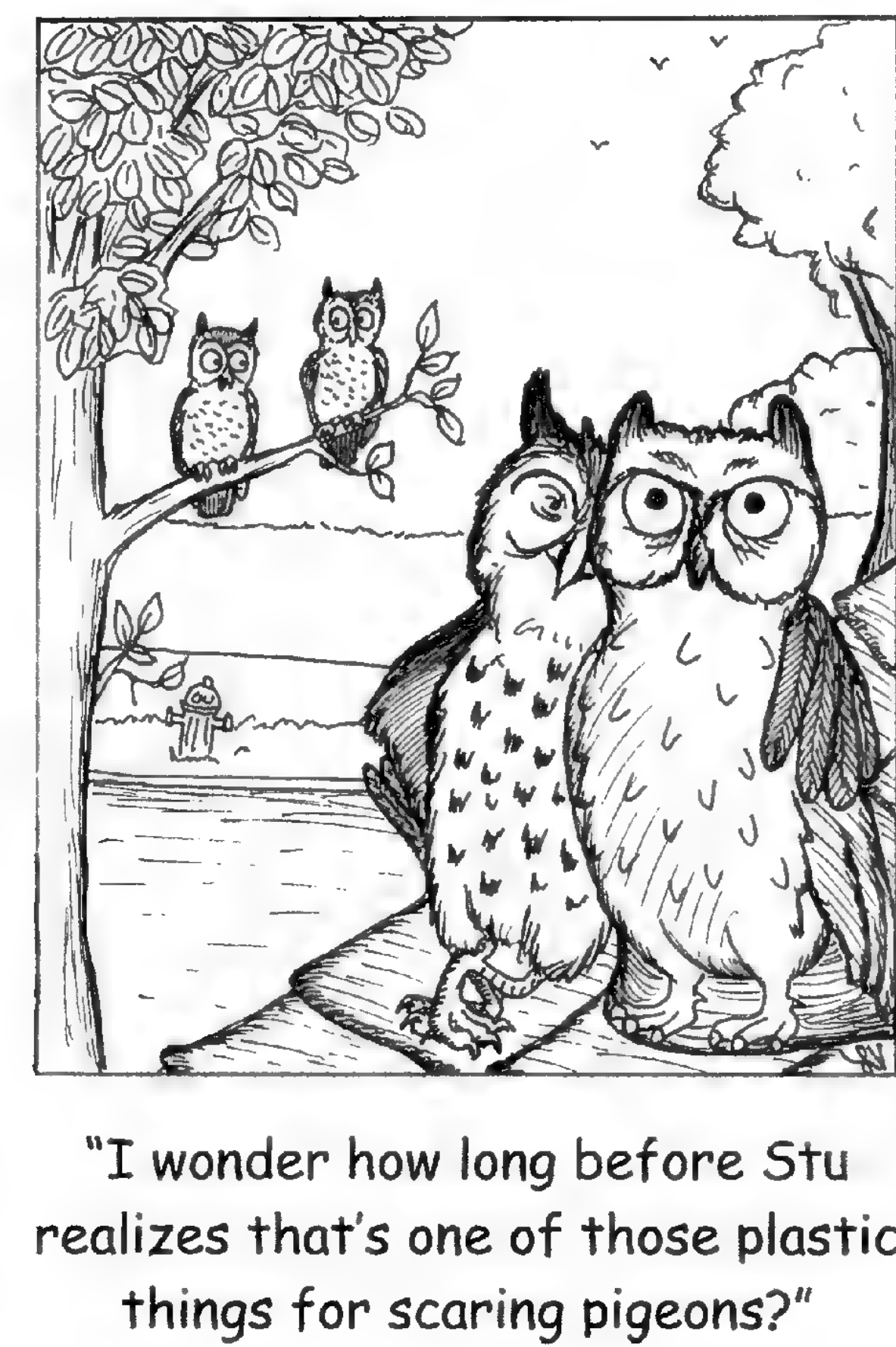
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Canada 

Spiegelman to draw on forbidden images for Speaker Series speech

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

There are few people the Students' Union would allow to smoke on the Myer Horowitz Theatre's stage—legendary comic artist Art Spiegelman being one of them.

Spiegelman will be at the University of Alberta tomorrow night as part of the SU's Revolutionary Speakers Series, where he's scheduled to discuss forbidden images and freedom of speech.

"It's been interesting to see how [comics have] been rejected and held at arm's length by the mainstream culture," Spiegelman said in a phone interview. "And yet more and more, we're living in a world where comics are somehow permeating the whole culture in the form of cinema, in the form of cartoon art, and that cartoon art occasionally is running up into world events in ways that are creating enormous clashes—the most recent is the Muhammad cartoons that we're living with the hangover of still."

Spiegelman is best known as the man who depicted Jews as mice and the Nazi Germans as cats in the graphic novel, *MAUS: A Survivor's Tale*. The work, which described his parents' experiences as Holocaust concentration camp survivors, won him

the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. However, more recently, some of his work has raised eyebrows and in some cases even faced censorship.

The June 2006 issue of *Harper's* magazine was pulled from Canadian bookshelves by Indigo and Chapters after his article, "Drawing Blood: Outrageous Cartoons and the Art of Outrage," which focused on Spiegelman's ideology of forbidden images, faced political controversy in the wake of the Muhammad cartoons.

"I figure, even if I just have to read the article out loud to people in Canada, [I will], if you want to allow discourse to continue," he said.

He argues that freedom of speech is an appropriate reason for printing material that could be considered offensive, so long as it opens up real dialogue and "not when it just beats up people who are already being beaten up."

Spiegelman said that he tends to lean towards the freedom of speech side of the equation despite the negative consequences it sometimes brings.

"Even when it leads to insane holocaust denial and speeches or whatever, I just tend to have ... faith in the notion that discourse eventually leads to better understanding," he said. "That's it's better to keep arguing about it until it lands—so long as blood isn't being

shed or about to be shed because of something said, then the longer solution's the better solution."

His goal as a comic artist is to try and be entertaining while at the same time saying something that needs to be said. And since his involvement as one of the founding members of the American underground comix in the '60s and '70s, Spiegelman says he's seen an enormous shift in the way society views the role of comics.

"Things that I thought and was in a minority, often of one, in 1966 or '67 have become the dominant take now that we've moved through a kind of sea change of how comics are being seen," he said. "Which is to say, the notion of comics might be some sort of art doesn't seem hallucinatory anymore."

Spiegelman explained he accepted to come speak at the U of A for much of the same reason that he chose to teach at Columbia University—because of the opportunities for dialogue the experiences offer.

"[Universities] used to be a place where social revolutions could be fermented. I don't know if that's as true anymore," he said. "But it's about the only place where you have the time out to actually reflect and think and take input without getting caught up in the mad squirrel cage run of what usually makes up a life."



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

ONE HUNDRED PER CENT (HU)MAN Dollansky is facing off against Energon-swiping Transformer Soundwave for VPX.

National outlook for VPX candidate

JEN HUYGEN
News Writer

The position of Vice-President (External) involves acting as the Students' Union's voice to the community at large and to the provincial government. This year Steven Dollansky, a third-year Science student, is running against the Decepticon Soundwave.

1 How do you intend to improve the public profile of students within the larger community?

I believe that the first thing we need to do is engage students a little bit more to get better attended events—advocacy-related events—and then I think that will really improve our profile within the community because we'll have a stronger and more unified voice. Other than that, I think that just being professional and really treating people that we need to meet with with respect; I think that that will really improve the profile of students in the public.

2 What is the biggest challenge you see currently facing the relationship between the U of A and the provincial government?

Funding. No question. The University needs more money in order to be able to do what they want to do. We need to make sure that we're lobbying with the University in a lot of cases and making sure the undergraduate voice is heard. We've seen a lot of the money that the University does receive go to research, and we need to see a lot more of that go towards the student experience in the classroom. I think the key is that we need to work with the University in order to see them get more funding to improve education as a whole.

3 The VPX is effectively the lobby voice for students. How do you plan to coordinate national and provincial lobbying efforts?

I think that we need to look into a national lobby group, specifically CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations), and just evaluate whether or not we would receive benefits that would warrant the investment. I think that that's important and it's something we haven't looked into in the past few years and we should. I'd definitely give it a thought. At the same time we need to continue to work with CAUS (Council

of Alberta University Students) at a provincial level to get our voice heard at that level and at the same time I think I'd like to see CAUS step up to a national level as well, just to get the Alberta student voice as a whole heard at the national level.

4 If you could improve focus on any issue within postsecondary education, other than the cost of tuition, what would it be?

That would be housing, for sure. I think it's something the Students' Union needs to do more of—work with the City and work with the provincial government to see things like property taxes on residences and the power taxation be changed. That's an \$850 000-a-year hit that the University takes, and I'd like to see that funnelled back into improved quality and reduced rent. At the same time, I'd like to work with the City to see more affordable housing projects dedicated to students.

5 You have five minutes to compose a haiku on why you should be elected.

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

IT'S THE MOST LEGAL DRUG OF ALL

At 7pm on 28 February, Campus Security received a complaint about a man trying to peddle illicit substances to innocent commuters in the bus loop near HUB mall.

The verboten vendor was tracked down and found to be intoxicated. No drugs were found, but he was arrested for public intoxication and taken downtown to the George Spady Centre to get sobered up.

ALL'S WELL THAT STAIRWELL

At 8:10pm on 28 February, a sketchy male was seen entering and leaving a number of stairwells in HUB Mall. He later met up with another man, and Campus Security decided that neither together, nor alone, were the two likely to be residents of the building. Both claimed to have been delivering flyers to the residences, but Campus 5-0 didn't buy their paper-thin story and escorted the dodgy duo off campus.

DROP IT 'CAUSE IT'S HOT

At 4:27pm on 3 March, a male was seen stealing a computer from a room in St. Joseph's College. Residents chased the laptop larcenist from the scene and towards the University LRT; the thief dropped the laptop at the top of the escalator and ran down into the station.

The creeping culprit is described as about 6' tall and wearing a blue winter jacket. Campus Security and Edmonton Transit System Security are investigating.

THIS ISN'T NASCAR IN BALL

At around 2am on 4 March, a car was stopped after it was seen hitting the meridian and weaving about on 112 Street. Constables arrested the degenerate drunk driver and the Edmonton Police Service was called to the scene. Police issued a 24 hour suspension for impaired driving to the meridian-busting motorist. He was found not to be a University student.

Joke candidates drain SU resources: Cunningham

JOKE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham questioned whether the decision to fund joke candidates was the most beneficial way to use student dollars.

"We are giving money to these groups to basically make a joke of the whole election process," Cunningham said. "I'm not a big fan of the whole joke candidate thing just because it is costing us money and you can't really elect these people. So I would question the benefit of having them; I don't think it really adds to the democratic process."

Even with the existence of joke candidates, policy also ensures that if one of them ever did win an election, the CRO would be able to hold a by-election instead of Students' Council having to go through the process of voting to impeach them.

While a joke candidate has never won an election, Woynorowski noted that some have come close, and in positions where only one real candidate is running, joke candidates ensure that

they continue to feel election pressure.

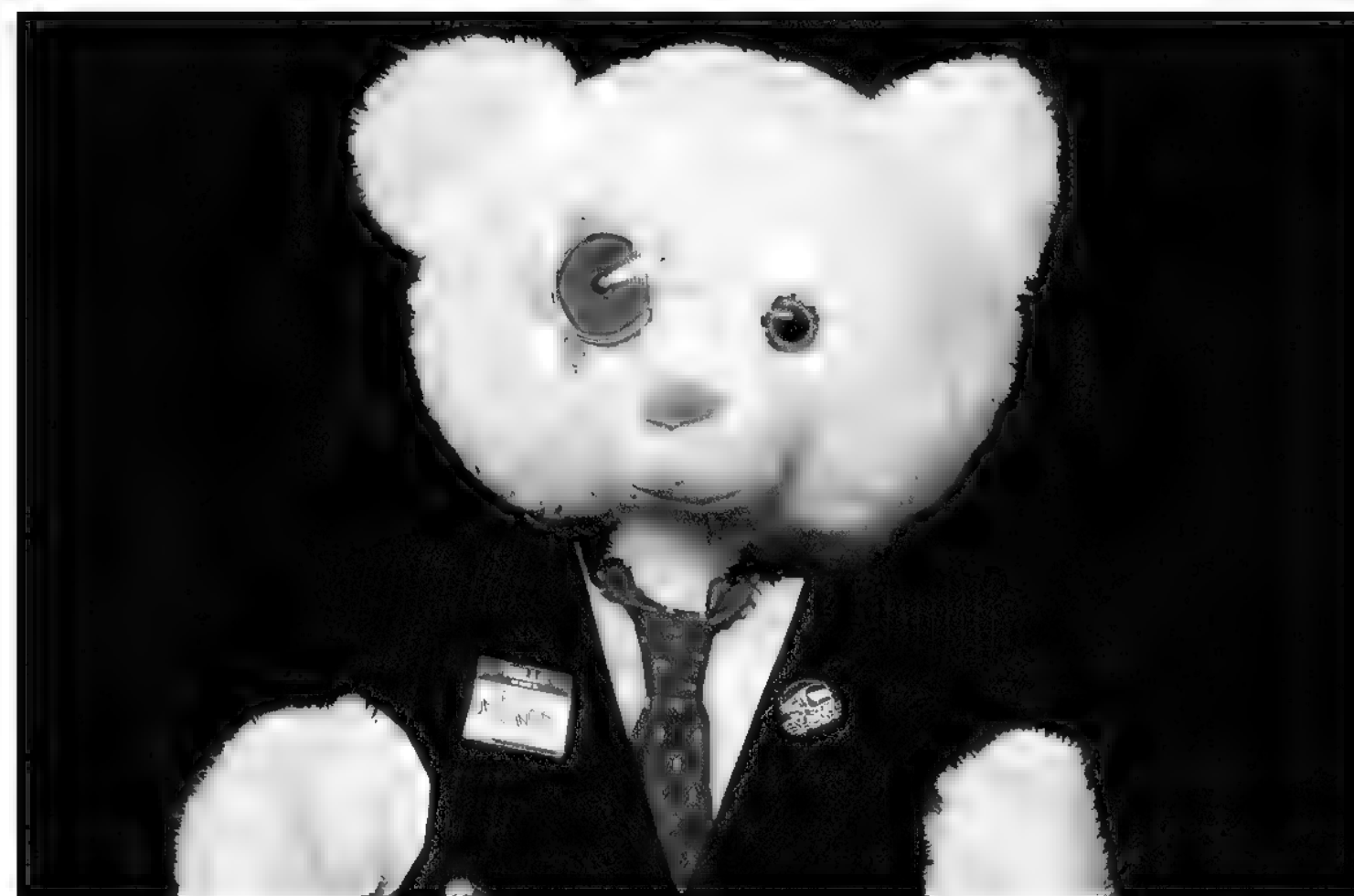
"It causes the real candidates who are running against the joke candidates to perhaps put a little bit more effort into their campaign," she said, adding that students drawn in by a joke candidate will then also listen to the real candidate's platform.

But, Woynorowski also noted that another concern brought up in Council when deciding whether or not to fund joke candidates was that having joke candidates "makes the election as a whole look like a joke."

"I don't know if I would go so far as to say it downgrades the election process or anything. I just find it frustrating that money is going to these campaigns and not to where it could be better used," Cunningham added.

Alyssa Shariff explained on behalf of VP (Student Life) joke candidate, Chubby Puff Ball, that part of the motivation to run a joke candidate came from the realization that students living outside the SU bubble pay little attention to the student elections.

"I was on Facebook and I kept



JOSH NAULT

PINK EYE Preaching global takeover, Minor brings a lighter side to the election.

getting these invites to different groups that were like 'so-and-so for President' and it just occurred to me that the candidates are so gung-ho about this but the rest of campus really doesn't care," Shariff said.

Students may only come out to election forums to see what their favourite

joke candidate has to say, but Shariff pointed out that once they're there, students will be exposed to the platforms of real candidates.

"I figured my job was kind of to get people into the forums and then it was the real candidates jobs to actually convince them to vote," Shariff said.

STREETERS

This year's SU elections feature an unusually large crop of joke candidates—three running for President, one for Vice-President (External) and one for Vice-President (Student Life).

What do you think about joke candidates?



Richie Assaly
Arts I



Jen Rush
Molecular
Genetics III



Jay Smith
Alumni



Glen Dobranski
Computer
Science IV

If Hillary Clinton can do it, I don't see why a lamb can't. Is there a lamb running? If Hillary Clinton can put together a campaign, anybody can, because she's a, you know, Clinton.

They detract from the whole experience. Who am I supposed to vote for? If somebody's just there for a gag, what's the point? They're wasting my time, their time, probably a lot of Students' Union money. It's just a waste.

It's symptomatic of a general mistrust of political bodies and legitimate politicians.

I think they add some much-needed levity; politics is too serious as it is. A few years ago I voted for Labattman and the Kokanee Kid. If you've got nothing else to vote for and you want to still vote, it's a good way to show your support.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Ross Prusakowski

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March 7 and 8



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

SHAKING IT UP Richardson urges students to vote Yes, but Ogonoski and No side volunteer Angelica Quejada say “nay.”

Two sides square off over Coke

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Along with the executive positions, students will be voting on a plebiscite concerning the future of the University and Students’ Union’s exclusivity contract with Coca-Cola. Brock Richardson, a fourth-year political science student, is the campaign manager for the Yes side, while fifth-year political science major, Denise Ogonoski, heads up the No campaign.

1 What benefit would the student body see by voting for your side?

Brock Richardson: If we say Yes to this, first off, we eliminate a two-year period [under the current contract] where we get nothing and we guarantee that until 2015 students will be getting an average of \$524 000 a year directly into scholarships and bursaries and student services. So I think the benefit is very clear. Especially when affordability of education is such an issue.

Denise Ogonoski: First of all, you get choice at the University. The Yes side says that you can go to Mac’s and buy your own drink or go to a water fountain, but really, I don’t know if that’s good enough. We’re not saying “ban Coke,” but we’re saying provide choice to people. Coke’s still going to be on campus, obviously. But we think there are better alternatives, and we think there are a lot of intelligent people on campus who can think of a better way provide this choice to people on campus. Decision-making is something that’s not really being given to students right now, with Coke having the monopoly. Coke’s doing it for us, and we just need to take that back. And I think that is a really big benefit to students.

The ethical purchasing policy that the Students’ Union has is something that benefits everybody and they’re obviously not following it. So they’re not following it and they’re also obligated to stop the contract with a company like Coke, because it doesn’t meet even the lowest ethical standards.

2 Given the campus response to the Coke debate, it seems to be a contentious issue among students. Why do you think there are such strong feelings on both sides of the Coca-Cola issue?

Richardson: I think that the thing that causes the problem on both sides is that there are a lot of myths about the deal, and that people are basically boiling it down to money versus ethics. It’s not money versus ethics,

because even if Coca-Cola does have questionable ethics—and I think that is the strongest that the No side has been able to put out there, that they are questionable—the option of getting Coke off campus, the option of absolving us of any moral guilt, which is what some people want to feel, isn’t there. Because we can’t get Coke off campus. We’re only the [Students’ Union], the University is still going to sign a deal. And even if the SU wanted to get them out of [the Students’ Union Building], we couldn’t for two years anyway. So getting rid of Coke isn’t an option here.

Ogonoski: Because there was such a huge movement trying to raise awareness against what Coke is doing and its effects on our campus and our students this whole year. It’s been going on since September. When this plebiscite came up, it was already an emotional issue. So the fact that there’s a plebiscite on it just condensed it. When you have a movement of any sort, there is always going to be a reaction to that movement. We have a strong movement going regarding raising awareness about Coke, and that’s why there’s an equally strong reaction against that, because you’re going to get a strong reaction to a strong movement.

3 Given the fines that have been levied the No side (amounting to \$900), some have expressed concerns that it may have affected the validity of this vote. What is your response to that?

Richardson: I don’t think that that’s going to affect the validity of the vote. When it comes down to it, there are so many different ways of getting the message out there, of informing students of what’s going on. I don’t think that [the No side] having a very substantially diminished campaign budget is really going to affect their ability to get their message out there if they chose to really push it. It’s good that we have two sides in this referendum. I mean, if you look at the U-Pass, there’s only one side there. I think that that’s a problem when these things occur, because you don’t have anyone running for office, you just have people picking a side. Money is only one of the issues, because that [can] only produce campaign materials, but there are so many other things that people are doing: classroom speaking, talking to kids one-on-one, producing very cheap materials, which are easily done by anyone.

Ogonoski: We’ve had to become a lot more creative, like word of mouth especially, so we have been doing a lot of campaigning in different ways. We

don’t have fancy posters up all over the place, obviously. But we’ve been doing a lot of classroom speaking and tableing. We have handbills that don’t cost a lot of money that are very much person-to-person campaigning. It’s highly effective for us, because it gives us a chance to explain the issues fully to people. I think it’s still a valid question to pose, even with the fine, personally.

4 What do you think is the future of exclusivity agreements on Canadian campuses?

Richardson: First of all, who do you want to be business partners with, and that’s probably what’s on the mind of a lot of universities and colleges across the country. If this was a decision on if we were choosing whether we want Coke on campus or not, I think that this whole plebiscite would be playing out very differently, because I think that is a different issue entirely. That’s not the choice here. I think the other choice that has to be made here by college and university is that, because government funding seems to be going down and down every year, there is the need to explore alternative funding methods and alternative ways of actually getting results for students. Because, I think it’s okay to bark up the same tree for years, but if you’re not accomplish anything for students, that’s a problem.

Ogonoski: I can’t predict the future, but I think that people are smart. People in universities are smart. They’re going to realize that this isn’t a good idea. I don’t know what they’re going to choose as an alternative, but I think that they are going to realize that these exclusivity contracts aren’t right, and they are going to find their own alternatives by finding out what they need, what works best for them. Not what works best for a large company like Coke, that violates human rights and environmental standards. So, I think there is going to be a reaction to these, because it’s already started; it’s happened in the [United States] already, so I think Canadian campuses are going to follow suit.

5 You have five minutes to write a haiku explaining why students should vote for your side.

Richardson:
Do the pragmatic
Thing scholarships bursaries
Half of a million

Ogonoski:
Stick to the issue?
What of ethics, choice, power
Coke’s hardly worth it



Fact: Automatonophobia is the irrational fear of statues, mannequins, dummies, or any other intimate object that represents a sentient being.

Fact: Gateway News meetings, held on Fridays at 3pm in 3-04 SUB, is an automatonophobic-friendly environment. We have a strict “burn all ventriloquist dummy” policy. They might not all be evil, but we don’t like taking chances.

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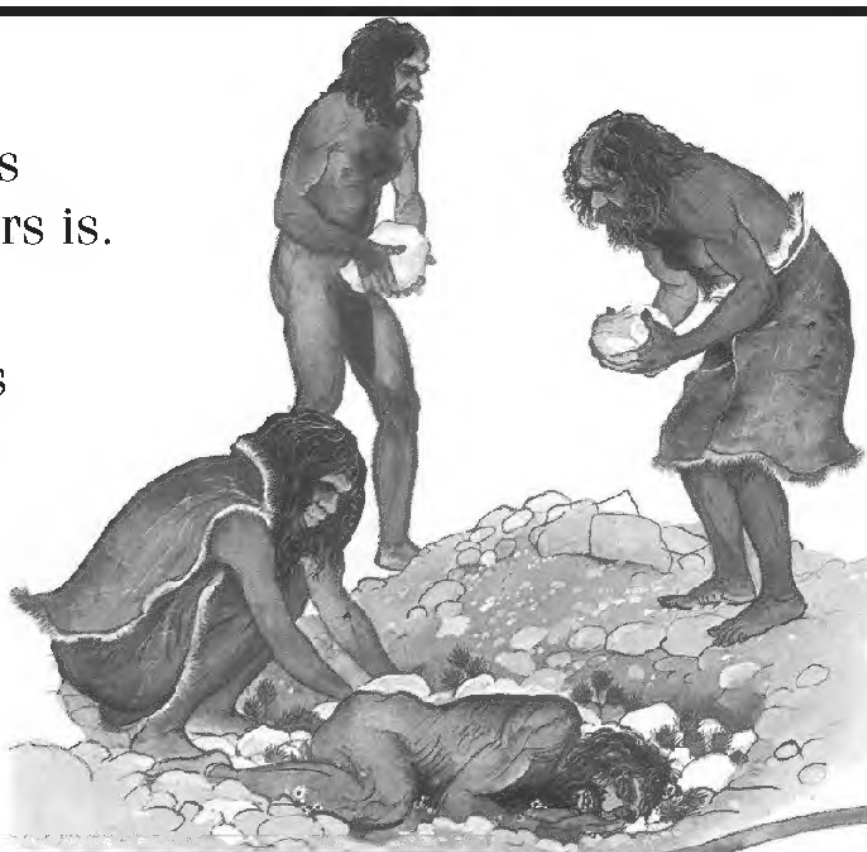
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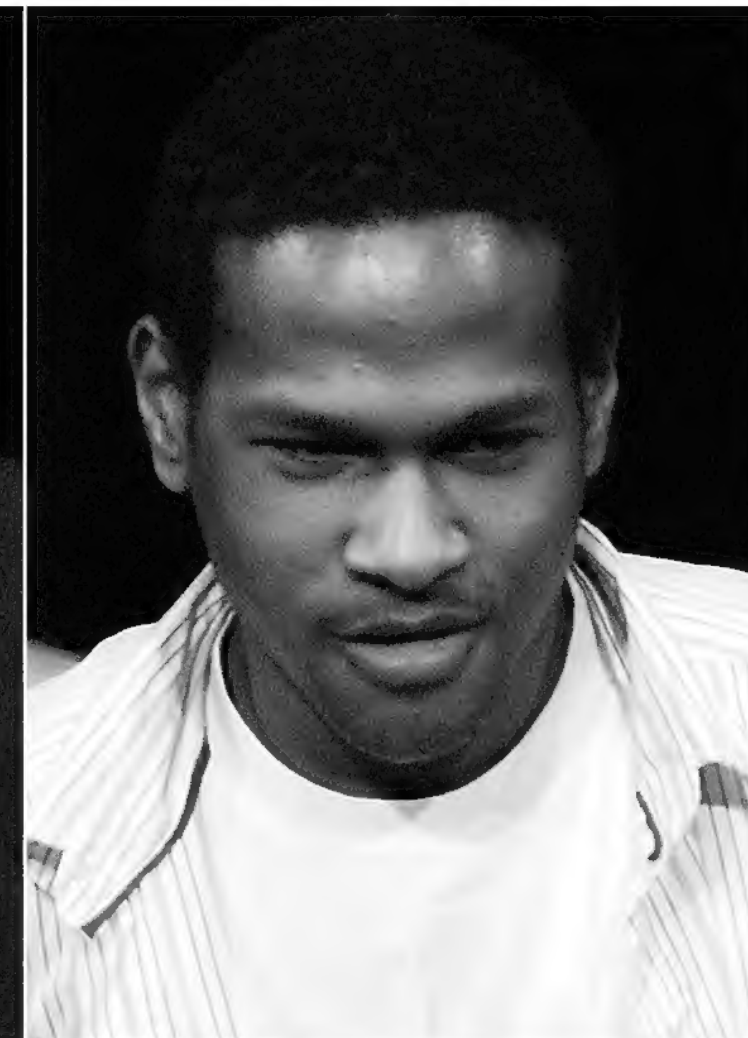
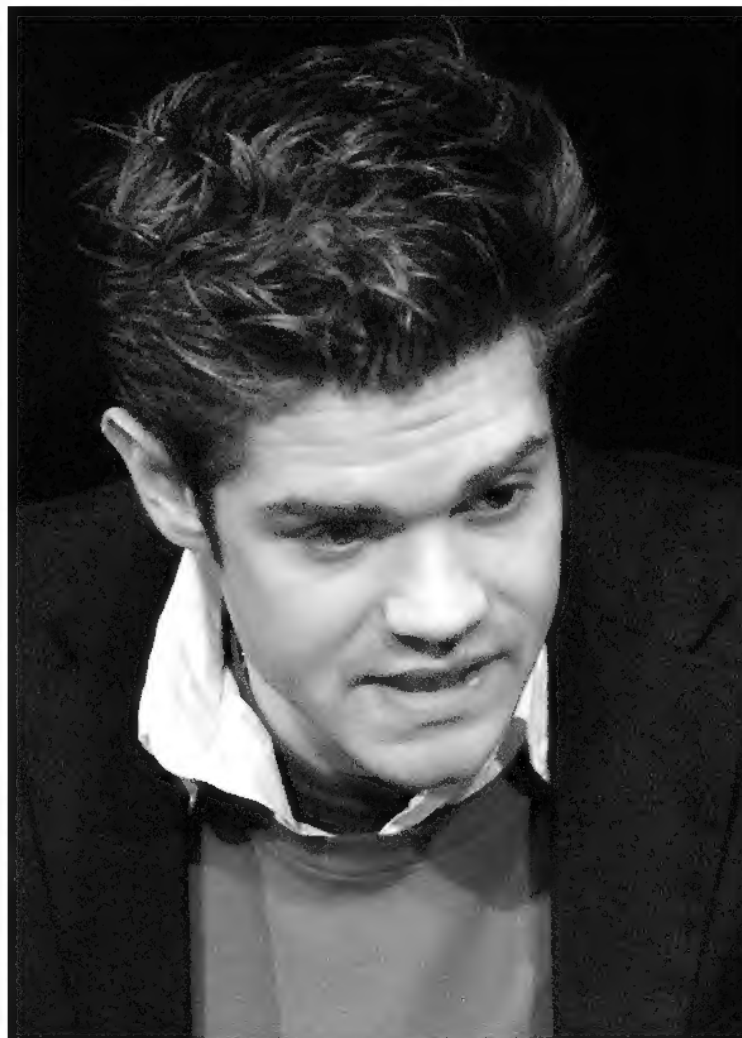
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JOSH NAULT

GETTING ON BOARD Guiney, Chiswell and Eruvbetine speak to students at the Myer Horowitz forum yesterday.

BoG hopefuls zero in on teaching, tuition

VICTOR VARGAS
News Staff

Although the original nomination deadline had to be extended because of a lack of candidates, three people are now running for Board of Governors representative: Prem Eruvbetine, Paul Chiswell and Adam Guiney.

1 How do you see the role of the BoG representative as differing from the SU President's role on the Board?

Prem Eruvbetine: Well, for starters, the Students' Union President has a whole office behind her, so she has more resources, she has more plans, she has got ambition for the SU in general and the Board of Governors is one of the many faces of her responsibilities. But the Board of Governors rep is primarily just catering for the Board of Governors.

Paul Chiswell: The Students' Union President has a lot more encompassing in their job description. So they have to worry about SU services, the SU machinery, whereas the Board of Governors representative is representing all students at [that] level. They can give it much more attention than the SU President can. The SU President has much more in term of funds and resources at their disposal, and the Board of Governors representative can use that to their advantage if they work together. That way you are leveraging your votes and you automatically start off with a united front among students.

Adam Guiney: I think the role is differentiated primarily because the way the positions are structured. The President is directly responsible to the Students' Council, first and foremost. However, the Board of Governors isn't quite structured the same and he is more of a student-at-large. So therefore his opportunity is to speak [for] students in general, whereas the President would primarily take the role of speaking on behalf of the Students' Union at the Board level. That's not to say they can't work together and communicate and agree on a lot of issues.

2 The annual tuition decision is the highest profile activity of BoG. How would you approach it?

Eruvbetine: Well for starters, get student voices heard. Recently the tuition has been somewhat frozen and turn[ed] back, and it's been a positive step so far. And of course there is still more room for improvement. The main influence they have is by lobbying the individual governors on the Board, so that's another approach that could be taken—you go to each individual governor and get them to see, rationalize with them, present a good argument to

them and then hope for the best.

Chiswell: Tuition is the most highly debated and most covered topic of the Board of Governors. I think that what's important is that the Board of Governors has a plan when it comes to tuition instead of increasing tuition every year on an ad-hoc basis. One of the things that is important for the Board of Governors to do, though, is to demand a strategic plan to improve the quality undergraduate experience. If tuition is going up, so should the quality of the undergraduate education. And I think it's important to look at both of those as similar topics.

Guiney: I think, what we do is, primarily as students, is when we say no to a tuition increase, we are actually sending a message to the government. Because this is sort of a streamline process between moving from the government to the Board of Governors to the University to the students. And so by advocating that we shouldn't raise tuition, we are sending a message to the government. When it comes to issues such as tuition, we have to put up a good argument, which there are many, there are many sound arguments against tuition increases. And when the time comes, we will advocate all of them.

3 Besides tuition, what issues do you think are most important to students, and how would you approach them?

Eruvbetine: Almost everything, because [the] Board of Governors deals with everything financial. So things from education quality by releasing funds for new teachers for study space, allocating study space, and all that. So that's just education quality. There is also the aspect of residences, they deal with residence increases, everything about residences and they are responsible for the future of the University, so new buildings, new residences, new facilities like a new Van Vilet and what not. Anything that has to do with funding, the Board of Governors will be responsible for it.

Chiswell: The University should take a long-term approach to improving the quality of the undergraduate education. Right now they are always focused on being the number one research. [President] Indira [Samarasekera] says that undergraduate education is a priority but we need to see some concrete examples. One thing that the University can do is increase the emphases that are placed on, for example, professors incentives for them is to do research. And what the University should do is place teaching quality at the same place as research excellence. So if a professor is excellent at teaching, they should be able to receive the same raise as the bonuses and promotions.

Guiney: One of the biggest things we have to look at when you are looking at the Board of Governors, is thinking in terms of a corporation. One of the things ... is bringing in more professors, [and] professors of higher prestige. In addition, they are also focusing on a lot of research and development, as well as graduate students. Being elected by undergrads, I'm going to advocate that, no, undergrads should have a primary focus because they are in fact the foundation of graduate students. So, it would only make sense to consider them when you are looking at a long-term vision. The second thing I really want to focus on is student scholarships and bursaries. [And] the loan program, which needs very fundamental reform.

4 The BoG nomination deadline was extended due to lack of candidates. What made you change your mind and run?

Eruvbetine: Well, for starters, to be honest, that I didn't even realize that I wanted to be a Board of Governors rep. When I saw that no one was going to run, I was somewhat disappointed that no one wanted to take up the responsibility and I figured that I really wanted to do this. By no one wanting to do it, it kind of made up my mind that I wanted to do this.

Chiswell: I think it's very important that students represent other students on the Board. It's an excellent opportunity for students to communicate what's important to them and when I saw that no one did that, I wanted to make sure that students had a representative. I really think that the issue the quality of education and the level of the undergraduate experience needed to improve.

Guiney: I was intending to run for the Board position for next year. When I heard no one had put their name forward, I was just concerned because the Board of Governors, it the highest strategic body in the college and sets the long-term vision. Thus it is fundamentally important to the success of student advocacy that we have someone who can represent student views.

5 You have five minutes to write a haiku on why you should be elected.

Eruvbetine couldn't write a haiku he was willing to submit.

Chiswell:

Tuition goes up,
Students keep getting screwed
Paul will represent.

Guiney:

BoG is the board that hordes
The keys, fees, use me's
So please, take ease. Vote Adam Guiney

On 7 & 8 March undergraduate students can vote for or against the implementation of a Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass). If approved, starting September 2007, the U-Pass would give undergraduate students unlimited access to Edmonton, St Albert and Strathcona County's regular transit services for a mandatory fee of \$75 per student, per term.

The University of Alberta Students' Union has been talking about a U-Pass, since 1998. But, it wasn't until **21 October, 2003** that then-Arts councillor Heather Wallace and then-Science councillor Shawna Pandya put forward a motion in Students' Council to draft a referendum question asking students if they would be willing to pay a mandatory fee for a U-Pass.

In **March 2004**, 63 per cent of student voters approved the U-Pass referendum at a maximum fee of \$60 per student, per semester. However, the Edmonton Transit System (ETS) said that it would need a minimum of \$120 per student, per semester in order to implement the U-Pass at break-even rate. The SU was left trying to find outside financial support to fill the funding gap.

In **July 2005**, Edmonton City Councillor Kim Krushell and Lorna Stewart from ETS made a presentation to Students' Council reiterating why \$120 per student, per term was needed to offset the operating costs of the program. However, Krushell stressed at the time that the City of Edmonton didn't expect students to shoulder the whole cost. She said that the City would help the SU find other sources of funding for the program—including approaching the University Administration.

In **September 2005**, Grant MacEwan College student representatives came on board and joined U-Pass negotiations.

On **18 September, 2006**, St Albert City Council announced they would commit to subsidizing a U-Pass at \$90 per student, per term.

On **10 October, 2006**, the City of Edmonton's Transport and Public Works Committee's approved funding the U-Pass at \$30 per student per term.

On **17 October 2006**, Students' Council passed a motion brought forward by Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer to hold a second U-Pass referendum during the spring SU elections. According to the referendum question, the U-Pass would cost \$75 per student per semester with the remaining costs being covered by other sources.

In **November 2006**, final approval from City Council ensured a \$1.7 million commitment in municipal funding for the U-Pass. Strathcona County was then the only district left to outline its commitment to the U-Pass, which would give undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan College unlimited access to transit within the three city districts.

In **February 2007**, Strathcona County Council becomes the last of the three municipalities to approve funding the U-Pass at \$30 per student per term. On **16 February, 2007**, 83 per cent of graduate students approved a mandatory U-Pass fee totalling \$75 per student per term to begin September 2007.

The Road to U-Pass

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Current Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer is running the Yes side of the U-Pass referendum.

1 What makes the U-Pass an attractive option for students?

I think affordability is the key. At \$75 a semester, the U-Pass breaks down to \$18.75 a month—which equals one round trip a week—for unlimited access to regular service provided by Edmonton Transit, St Albert Transit and Strathcona County Transit. So, it's a really good deal for students and it provides an opportunity for students to take advantage of affordable alternative transit in getting to campus and around the city.

2 Why should students who don't currently use public transit support

this referendum?

The affordability factor equals one round trip a week for four months with the \$75 a term. So for example, if you're on campus and you want to take the bus down to Whyte Ave or take the LRT downtown and come back, that's basically what the cost of the U-Pass costs for unlimited access. So it really is affordable and provides an alternative for people if you don't want to drive. I know, like myself as someone who's in residence, I live in East Campus Village and I don't have a car and I'm in walking distance of all my classes, but just having the opportunity to have an affordable bus pass like that is huge.

3 Why do you think no one is running the No side of the referendum?

Because it's a good deal and everybody would like to vote Yes.

4 How will implementing the U-Pass help address transit issues on campus?

The U-Pass is part of the University's greater Traffic Demand Management strategy in order to alleviate a lot of the traffic congestion on campus. So for people who do drive cars to campus, it will alleviate the pressure on the roads with more students taking public transit and it will [make it] easier to find parking spaces. But it will cut down on the traffic congestion as well as it will address a lot of environmental issues with pollution.

5 You have five minutes to write a haiku on why students should vote Yes on the U-Pass referendum?

75 bucks
The U-Pass is a great deal
Vote Yes to U-Pass



KIMSMITH



UNIVERSITY OF
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BEAR TRACKS

Fall 2007/Winter 2008 Registration Information

The upcoming registration season is just around the corner!

Prepare for Fall 2007/Winter 2008 Registration in *Bear Tracks*

1. Check your Enrolment Appointment in <i>Bear Tracks</i> (your registration date and time) 'Academics' > 'View Enrollment Appointment' <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note your registration date and time• use the provided links to review your Faculty specific information online	Available March 6
2. Review your unofficial transcript to assist you with program planning 'Academics' > 'View Your Unofficial Transcript'	Available NOW
3. Check out the 2007-2008 Course Listings and Class Schedule 'Course and Class Information'	Available NOW
4. Remember to clear any financial holds 'Personal Portfolio' > 'View Financial Holds'	Available NOW

Register for the Fall 2007 and Winter 2008 Terms in *Bear Tracks*

1. Login to <i>Bear Tracks</i> on or after your enrolment appointment date	Late March/Early April
2. Register in your courses 'Academics' > 'Register in a Class'	Register early for best class selection
3. Review your registration by viewing your class timetable 'Academics' > 'View My Class Timetable'	
4. Undergraduate Students—remember to pay your confirmation deposit.	Deadline August 15

Other Online Registration Materials

<i>Bear Tracks</i> User Guide (to guide you through the registration process on <i>Bear Tracks</i>) www.registrar.ualberta.ca/btguide	Available NOW
2007-2008 University of Alberta Online Calendar Choose to use the convenient, environmentally friendly Online Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy to use• Easy to navigate• Fewer hassles—no line ups• Accessible 24/7• No trees used www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar	Available March 15

Bear Tracks—It's Convenient, It's Quick
<https://www.beartracks.ualberta.ca>

Check out the Undergraduate Awards and Bursaries at:
www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards

Rock the fucking vote already

ISN'T APATHY A WONDERFUL THING? SISTER TO ignorance, it can be the lazy man's back door out of even the most volatile of discussions. Every time I'm faced with a difficult and controversial topic of conversation, I simply reply with, "I don't care enough to form an opinion." It's saved my ass on everything from peace in the Middle East and tolerance of others' religions to the latest-breaking news on Anna Nicole Smith's post-mortem legal troubles.

Now that March has rolled around again, we've come to the special time that is the annual Students' Union elections. Even the most indifferent of students can't help but notice the hundreds of posters plastered around University buildings and the classes interrupted by campaigning candidates, hocking their political wares in little two-minute packages. Not only is this time of year the biggest for political activity, it's also the most overt example of mass student apathy.

Living in a culture where we're constantly bombarded with advertisements and messages to buy something or think a certain way, we've developed a subconscious means of filtering everything out—and why shouldn't we? We're already leading such busy and hectic lives. Do we really have time to care about the thousand-and-one catch phrases and slogans we're bombarded with everyday?

And surely, you have more important things to do than worry about SU elections. You could be rushing to your Econ mid-term, studying with that cute girl who gave you her number, falling asleep in the back row of Philosophy 102, stuffing your face with a deliciously artery-clogging Wildcat donair, screaming your lungs out at a Bears hockey game or drowning your sorrows over the Ryan Smyth trade in beer up at RATT. Why should you be worrying about a bunch of no-name politicians whose job descriptions are more foreign to you than the contents of your Psych 495 textbook? Because they're responsible for *how* you accomplish everything else in a day in your life as a student—that's why.

It may seem trivial or clichéd to hear the same "importance of voting" speech over and over again, but just like your mother kept telling you to wash your hands after you took a leak, there's a good reason for it. These people are responsible for your time and money on campus, and more importantly, your voice. It's unfortunately true that nobody actually listens to a lone individual standing in a crowd, no matter how loud he's shouting. They look to the representatives of the people to speak for us. Do you really want someone whose platform you don't agree with putting words in your mouth?

This year's ballot especially provides a number of important reasons to vote. Sadly, a great majority of candidates themselves are simply mediocre. Thanks to the beauty of the "none of the above" option, however, you can tell the powers that be that you're simply not satisfied with the options. We don't have to choose between the lesser of the evils when there are better choices out there. Force a by-election on the candidates who aren't cut out for the job, and get somebody competent to do it.

Arguably even more influential are the U-Pass referendum and the Coke plebiscite—both substantial issues whose outcome will determine how much you will give to and get from your Students' Union in coming years. And inform yourself on both topics before you vote, because there's nothing worse than uninformed voters skewing the ballots.

While these few words of wisdom likely won't change many apathetic opinions, at least consider taking an extra 20 minutes to get informed and hit one of the many polling stations around campus. Like it or not, the outcome of this year's elections are a lot more important to us than this week's finalists on *America's Next Top Model*—though that Natasha Galkina girl is pretty dreamy ...

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

LETTERS

Pressuring pop company produces results

(Re: "Cracking a cold case," 1 March). Mr Gaumont states that "our SU ought to sever any and all ties" with companies proven to be unethical. He then discusses potential ways Coke may or may not be involved, and attempts to justify why Coke can act negligently or encourage/support abysmal working conditions. Next, he criticizes attempts to tear down a "corporate monolith." In this context, why is this such a negative endeavor?

International organizations exist to pressure companies like Coca-Cola to change. Definitely not an exclusive list, these groups include the International Labour Organization, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and United Nations Human Rights Commission. In return, companies attempt to justify and/or deny their direct involvement or complicity in these horrific situations. Articles like Mr Gaumont's don't help.

Let's look at a different company: Royal/Dutch Shell. They denied colluding with Nigerian governments, purchasing weapons for Nigerian security forces, and remained silent while the government slaughtered people in the name of oil. Yet after significant pressure from the above groups combined with massive pressure from the general international community (that means us) they changed their business policies and admitted their involvement. They now speak out against human rights abuses within their countries of operation. International pressure from universities, organizations and individuals forced this change.

Returning to Coke, look at Guatemala: after international pressure through the 1980s, Coke took action to stop human rights violations occurring in their bottling plant. They bought out the owners who were accused of working with paramilitaries; the staff's safety has significantly improved.

We don't have to say "a corporation is legally obligated to earn a return" and brush off deaths and gross environmental damage. Companies can still turn a profit by going green and supporting their workers. Shell recognized this: healthy workers are happy, more productive workers; happy communities are more supportive and safe communities to work with.

Respecting human rights can be good for business. International pressure (again that includes us) makes a difference. We need to stop giving corporations an excuse and start holding them accountable for their roles in human rights violation and environmental degradation.

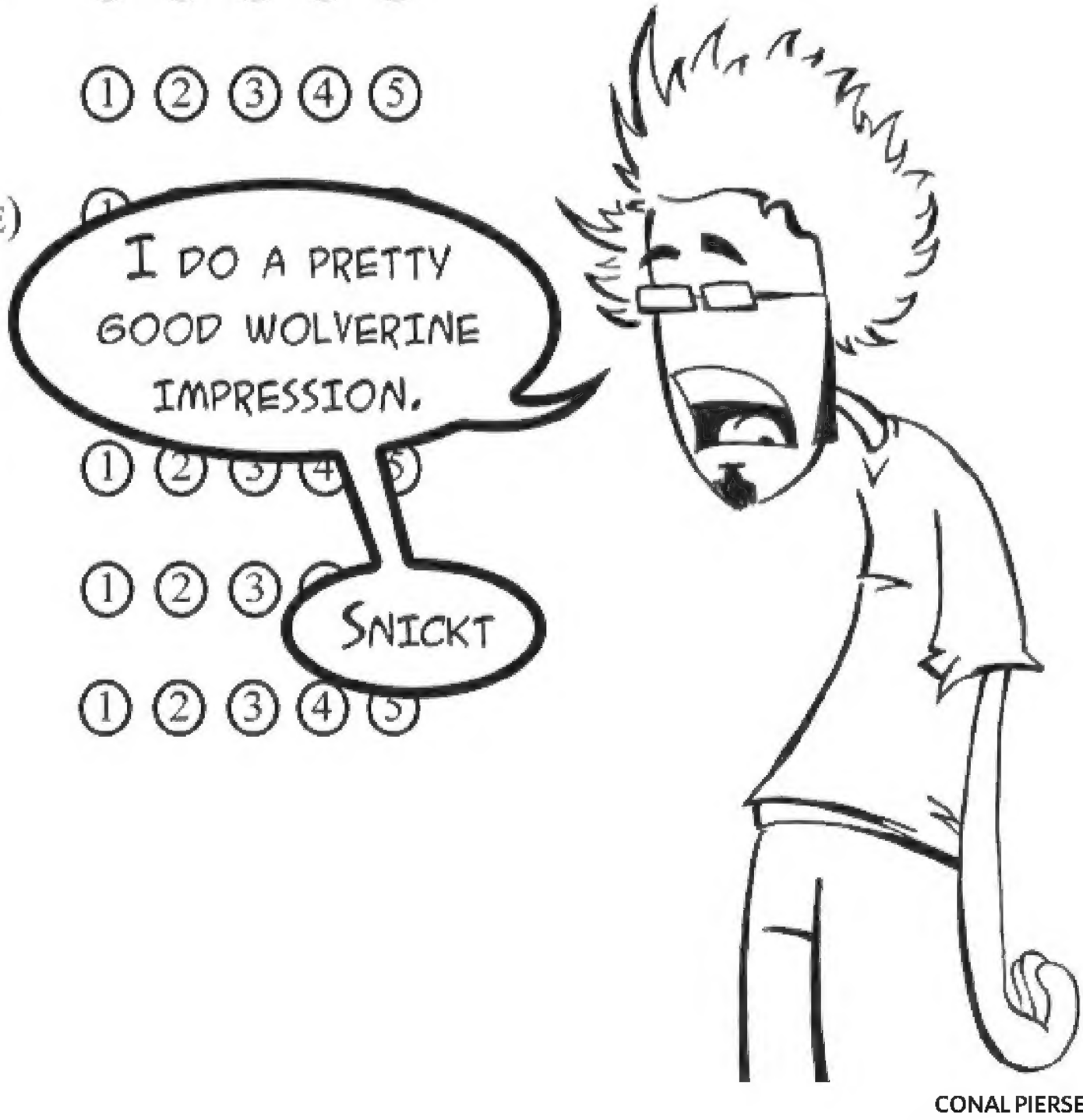
COSANNA PRESTON
Political Science IV

Now hear this, SU

I want to applaud Mr Gaumont for pointing out that the Students' Union abides by an Ethical Business Partners policy, which forbids it from conducting business with companies guilty of human rights abuses or environmental negligence. In instances where the Students' Union is unable to sever business ties due

STUDENTS UNION ELECTION BALLOT

- AMANDA HENRY (JOKE) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- MICHAEL JANZ (JOKE) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- CODY LAWRENCE (JOKE) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- URSA MINOR (JOKE) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- CHUCK NORRIS (JOKE) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- GEORGE RHO (JOKE) ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- NONE OF THE ABOVE ① ② ③ ④ ⑤



CONAL PIERSE

to contractual obligations, the policy states that upon expiry the contract will not be renewed. The policy also states that members of the Students' Union have a right to lodge a complaint regarding any company with which the Students' Union currently does business, and that their complaint will be heard and ruled upon by the Executive Committee.

Surely then, if a complaint was lodged regarding Coca-Cola's alleged abuses, the Executive would have no problem hearing the complaint and coming to a decision about the evidence presented. Now if as Mr Gaumont claims, evidence against Coke is "little and circumstantial," the Executive should have no problem hearing and ruling on such a complaint. Perhaps then Mr Gaumont can tell me why a complaint lodged with the Executive Committee on January 23 regarding Coca-Cola's ethical practices has not been heard yet, and why inquiries to determine when the hearing will occur have been ignored. The Students' Union must be accountable to its stakeholders—that is, undergraduate students. Ignoring a complaint about its compliance with the Ethical Business Partners policy does not bode well for accountability or the Students' Union's commitment to corporate social responsibility.

STEPHANIE SHANTZ
Arts IV

Gateway reportage leaves bitter aftertaste

The *Gateway's* lack of balance on the Coca-Cola issue is rather disappointing. Rather than thoroughly exploring allegations against the corporation, the *Gateway* seems more focused on using blanket generalizations about the allegations and the people making them, in order to completely dismiss the issue. This does little to increase student knowledge or discourse, which should be the *Gateway's* primary aim.

One thing I was deeply alarmed by was the claim of "smear campaigns against Coke in India." Communities

in many parts of India suffer severe water shortages due to drought, a problem that is exacerbated in those communities where Coca-Cola bottling plants are operational. Contrary to claims that Coke is not responsible for the decline of the ground water table, the Central Ground Water Board has found the factories such as the one in [Kaladera] indiscriminately exploiting ground water reserves from deep aquifers. In several communities, Coca-Cola was distributing its solid waste to farmers as "fertilizer." When this substance was tested by the BBC it was found to contain both cadmium and lead, meaning it was effectively toxic sludge. Coca-Cola stopped the practice of distributing its toxic waste only when ordered to do so by the state government.

The presence of high levels of pesticides in Coca-Cola products was confirmed by tests conducted by a variety of agencies, including the government of India. As a result, the Parliament of India has banned the sale of Coca-Cola in its cafeteria. However, Coca-Cola continues to sell drinks laced with poisons in India.

Protests against Coca-Cola are frequent across India, as citizens continue to demand prosecution against the company under the Environmental Protection Act. To suggest that this is nothing but a "smear campaign" is insulting not only to the Western activists devoted to this issue, but also to the people of India whose very lives and livelihoods are being affected by this multinational's exploitation of the resources they depend on for survival.

AMITA SHARMA
Arts IV

U-Pass a free ride for some

While current bus users undoubtedly will benefit from a U-Pass, it is grossly unfair to ignore other students who will not. Students living outside of participating transit areas or where service is poor will not benefit from a U-Pass. More importantly, students who currently walk or cycle in order to

save cash to pay for ever-rising tuition loads will be burdened by yet another fee, this time imposed by fellow students. It is not fair that needy students will, in many cases, subsidize the transit costs of students who are perfectly able to pay for their own bus passes. A true policy to help needy students with transit costs would take the form of a student-administered bursary which could target money to those who need it most. Progressive social policy, the U-Pass is not.

Second, on the environmental point, it is hard to believe that a U-Pass will cause car users to happily brave -30 C weather to wait 20 minutes at a bus stop—if they really wanted to save money so badly, they would already take public transit. More likely, the U-Pass will push environmentally clean walkers and cyclists into using buses since it will now be "free." This will hurt the environment.

Moreover, economics dictates that pollution is curbed when polluters must pay the cost of polluting so they either stop polluting, or clean up what they create. The U-Pass does the exact opposite: it gives, literally, a free ride on unrestricted bus usage which encourages increased bus travel, and therefore increased emissions. A true environmental initiative would plant trees or buy rainforests for preservation, not eliminate incentives to walk short distances.

The U-Pass is neither a fair means of reducing student travel costs nor an effective way to preserve the environment; it is simply a way for bus users to get their transit subsidized by everyone else. As a bus user, I don't want my transit costs reduced on the backs of those who are less able to pay than me. Please take the side of your fellow students who don't use the bus and can't afford to pay another \$150 per year: vote against the U-Pass.

MUSTAFA HIRJI
Alumnus

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.